



Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION



JOBLESS RATE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

The November unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area stood at 4.5 percent, a monthly decrease of 1.5 percentage points. This marks the fifth consecutive monthly decrease. The jobless rate is below that of the state and nation, whose unemployment rates were 4.6 and 7.1 percent respectively. This is the first time in 1980 that the labor area jobless rate has fallen below the state rate. In comparison, the unemployment rate for the Clinton labor area fell from 6.6 percent to 5.1 percent. The rate for the Gardner labor area decreased one percentage point 6.0 to 5.0 percent. When looking at such large declines in unemployment rates, one must remember that the rate is derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The methodology involved can have as much effect on the month to month difference as any real fluctuations in employment and unemployment.

CLAIMS ACTIVITY ALSO DECLINES

Initial claims in the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area dropped 12.9 percent during the month. More significantly, they have decreased 22.5 percent since November, 1979. Continued claims were reduced by 3.9 percent during the month.

EMPLOYMENT REMAINS STABLE

A good indication of the labor market area's ability to withstand recessionary pressure can be found in nonagricultural employment. It has remained virtually the same over the past year, realizing a gain of 100 positions. During the month of November, 200 positions were added; 100 each in manufacturing and non manufacturing.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of November reveals a number of occupations for which there are many more applicants than job orders. The largest group is made up of nurse's aides and child care attendants, showing a ratio of more than 55 applicants per job opening. Other occupations showing a surplus of job applicants include construction workers, electronic assemblers, bookkeepers and office clerks.

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

As of April 1, 1980, the population of the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area was 99,446, according to a preliminary count of the returns of the 1980 census. This figure represents an increase of 2,282 or 2.3 percent from the 97,164 inhabitants enumerated in the 1970 census. The preliminary count of housing units in the labor market area as of April 1, 1980 was 37,690. This figure, which includes both occupied and vacant housing units, represents an increase of 5,614 or 17.5 percent from the 32,076 units accounted for in the 1970 census.

These preliminary figures will be superseded by the final counts which will be issued within the next few months. The final counts are subject to further processing and review and may differ from the preliminary figures.

NEW MINIMUM WAGE

A new federal minimum wage of \$3.35 goes into effect on January 1, 1981. This increase, from \$3.10 to \$3.35, was provided for in 1977 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act. In addition the act allows for the payment of wages below the statutory minimum in order to prevent loss of job opportunities for certain workers. Handicapped workers, full-time students and student learners in specified industries may currently be employed at subminimum wages under appropriate regulations. Employers must apply for authority to pay such wages from the Labor Department.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	NOV 80	OCT 80	NOV 79
LABOR FORCE	49,680	50,080	47,670
Employment	47,420	47,090	45,590
Unemployment	2,260	2,990	2,080
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	4.5	6.0	4.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE			
Initial Claims	183	210	236
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,031	1,073	929

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3,010	1,611	519	298	1,068
New Applicants	1,302	625	225	105	176
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}		NOV 80
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	647	
Openings Received	463	

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	NOV 80	OCT 80	NOV 79
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.3	40.1	40.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.5	23.4	23.5
Construction	1.3	1.3	1.3
Trans. & public utilities	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesale & retail trade	8.3	8.2	8.5
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.2
Services & mining	5.6	5.7	5.8
Government	5.6	5.5	5.4

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	NOV 80	OCT 80	NOV 79
Manufacturing - Total	16.8	16.7	16.7
Durable Goods - Total	7.1	6.9	7.1
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	INA	INA	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.7	9.8	9.6
Rubber & miscellaneous	3.5	3.6	3.6
Plastics products	6.2	6.2	6.0
Other nondurable goods			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	NOV 80	OCT 80	NOV 79
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Job Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.	Massachusetts Division of Employment Security Eugene J. Doody, Director Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor	Requests for information or copies should be addressed to: Labor Area Research Department Mass. Division of Employment Security C. F. Hurley Building - Government Center Boston, MA 02114 (617) 727-6543
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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

LABOR AREA RESEARCH PUBLICATION



RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The January unemployment rate climbed to 6.2 percent, the second monthly gain in a row. This was due, in large part, to a sharp rise in continued claims. The Fitchburg unemployment office reported a continued claim load of 1,585, a 32 percent boost over the previous month. The area rate is 0.2 percentage points below the state rate and a full 2.0 percentage points below the national rate. Also, the January rate is 0.6 percentage points below the rate for the same time last year. All of these rates are not seasonally adjusted. Compared with the nine other large labor market areas, the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA has the third lowest unemployment rate for January. Boston (5.4) and Worcester (5.7) are the only LMA's with lower rates. The other 7 areas have unemployment rates ranging from 6.3 to 9.9 percent.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of January reveals a number of occupations for which there are many more applicants than job orders. The largest group is made up of construction workers, showing a ratio of 55 applicants per job opening. Other occupations showing a surplus of job applicants include carpenters, retail sales clerks, nurses aides, child care attendants, and officer clerks. In addition, local office personnel report that truck drivers in all classes are available.

M.I.F.A. BOND ISSUES

In Fitchburg, a \$500,000 bond was issued to Sanitoy Inc., a maker of baby care and toy products. The company plans to purchase a 232,000 square foot plant to allow future expansion. It is now leasing 75 percent of the plant. Seven new jobs will be created.

In Clinton, a \$2.6 million bond was issued to the Zayre 17th Realty Corp., a holding company for Zayre Corp., the retail chain. Plans call for the purchase of a warehouse building to be used as a distribution center for its area stores. Zayre Corp. expects the project to result in 150 new jobs.

HUD GRANT TO LOCAL FIRM

In Clinton, Van Brode Milling Co. has received a \$1 million HUD urban development action grant to renovate the Wickwire Spencer Steel Co. building.

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,913	1,482	532	247	1,034
New Applicants	680	262	111	117	50
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

a historic factory of about 300,000 square feet. The company will consolidate its plastics division into a complex of several buildings and the cereal division will expand its operation at the factory. Also, there will be a plastics recycling center for reuse of disposable cutlery.

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE DATA AVAILABLE

A compilation of data on employment and wages in establishments subject to the Massachusetts Employment Security law in each of the 351 cities and towns for the period 1967-1979 is now available. The publication shows that the annual average wage in the city of Fitchburg rose 108 percent between 1967 and 1979 while annual average employment dropped 9 percent. Average annual employment fell 39 percent in manufacturing while it increased 103 percent in services. In the city of Leominster, annual average wages also rose 108 percent. Average annual employment increased 27 percent with services growing by 188 percent. Similar information can be calculated for all cities and towns from the data provided in this publication. Anyone interested in obtaining this publication may do so by contacting the Occupation/Industry Research Department, C.F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, 02114.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
LABOR FORCE	47,300	48,310	47,580
Employment	44,350	46,050	44,320
Unemployment	2,950	2,260	3,260
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	6.2	4.7	6.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	128	366	179
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,486	1,199	1,565

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	JAN 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	687
Openings Received	152

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS *	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL			
Nonmanufacturing - Total			
Construction			
Trans. & public utilities			
Wholesale & retail trade			
Finance, ins. & real estate			
Services & mining			
Government			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS *	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS *	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	JAN 1980
Manufacturing - Total			
Durable Goods - Total			
Primary & fab. metals			
Machinery (exc. electrical)			
Other durable goods			
Non-durable Goods - Total			
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products			
Other non-durable goods			

* Figures will appear in the December issue of "Employment Review" due to Annual Benchmark Revision.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



CONTINUED INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The February unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points, the third consecutive monthly increase. The labor area rate matches the state rate of 6.4 percent and remains well below the national rate of 8.0 percent. These rates are not seasonally adjusted. The largest contributing factor to the increased monthly rate was a 41 percent rise in initial claims. Continued claims actually decreased 3 percent from the previous month.

HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

According to local office personnel, the hardest-to-fill job openings have been for machinists, mold-makers and licensed second class firemen. In addition, the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) shows a demand for insurance sales people, billing clerks, order clerks and service mechanics.

MASSACHUSETTS INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AGENCY

Locally, MIFA is financing a \$1.5 million project for the Mohawk Wire and Cable Co. A portion of the money will go toward adding an additional 20,000 square feet to Mohawk's facilities. The largest share of the financing will go toward the purchase of new equipment and machinery. The funding will aid new research and development, including the company's first work in fiber optics. When the entire project is completed, there will be 30 new jobs for production labor, seven or eight new jobs in supporting labor, and two or three new office jobs. MIFA also issued a \$1.95 million bond to assist a Rhode Island firm to relocate its manufacturing plant in Leominster. Ralco Industries, Inc. will renovate and equip a 39,000 square foot building and expects to hire 35 workers for its resin manufacturing plant.

A \$373,000 bond was issued to help finance a project for Denardo Wire and Cable Co., a newly incorporated firm. The company plans to acquire a 22,400 square foot building in the Montachusett Industrial Park in Fitchburg. The company will manufacture insulated copper wire and cable primarily for computer and electronic business machine assemblers. Fifteen new jobs will be created.

In addition, two new project proposals, which could create 27 new jobs, are being considered. Gary Chemical has requested financing for a second manufacturing line which would add 12 new jobs.

Another new business, Helix Wire Corporation is seeking financing which would result in 15 new jobs.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Labor Area Research Department has prepared three new publications for distribution:

Defense Spending and Massachusetts Employment, 1969-1979. This report is a study of defense spending and employment in Massachusetts during an eleven year period, 1969-1979. Included in this report are both national and state data on defense spending and those industries which benefited from defense procurement. **Health Service Industries and Employment in Massachusetts.** This publication reveals the importance of the Health Services Industry in Massachusetts and the nation. It includes an outlook on the opportunities in health careers, a report on the supply of workers and a description of the economic impact of hospitals on Massachusetts cities and towns. Also included is data on employment and wages for the years 1978 and 1979 in the Health Services Industry. **High Technology Employment in Massachusetts and Selected States.** This study evaluates Massachusetts' position in relation to other industrial states. This analysis is based on employment and wages in high technology, manufacturing and total employment for the years 1975 through 1979.

Copies of these publications may be obtained by contacting the Labor Area Research Dept., C.F. Hurley Bldg., Government Center, Boston, 02114

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
LABOR FORCE	48,140	47,300	47,330
Employment	45,050	44,350	44,470
Unemployment	3,090	2,950	2,860
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	6.4	6.2	6.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	180	128	183
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,446	1,486	1,509

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,983	1,497	497	245	1,080
New Applicants	709	291	40	42	119
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	FEB 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	404
Openings Received	169

^{1/} Available During the Month

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.4	39.1	40.0
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.2	23.1	23.2
Construction	0.9	0.9	0.9
Trans. & public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.2	8.1	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.4	1.3
Services & mining	5.9	5.9	5.8
Government	5.4	5.3	5.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.2	16.0	16.8
Durable Goods - Total	6.8	6.7	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.6	3.6	3.5
Other durable goods	3.2	3.1	3.3
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.4	9.3	10.0
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.6	3.4	4.1
Other nondurable goods	5.8	5.9	5.9

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	FEB 1981	JAN 1981	FEB 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

SLIGHT DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The March unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area fell 0.2 percentage points to 6.2 percent, equalling the state rate. The national rate was 7.7 percent in March. All of these rates were not seasonally adjusted. Among the ten major labor market areas, Fitchburg-Leominster had the fourth lowest unemployment rate for March. The slight decrease in the March rate was helped by a 6.7 percent drop in initial claims and a 7.9 percent reduction in continued claims.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of March reveals a number of occupations for which there are many more applicants than job openings. The largest group is made up of tractor-trailer and heavy truck drivers. Other occupations showing a surplus of job applicants are office clerks, cashiers, electronic assemblers, carpenters and material handlers.

PASS PROGRAM

To improve potential government contract and sub-contract opportunities for small businesses, the Small Business Administration developed its Procurement Automated Source System (PASS). Using the latest computer technology, PASS is designed to boost the number of government contracts awarded to small firms. PASS permits small firms to register their capabilities and have them matched with the needs of the procuring agencies. Small businesses which manufacture textiles, clothing, electronics, production equipment, medical, dental and ophthalmic goods and are located in "labor surplus areas" may wish to register with PASS in order to increase the possibility of receiving defense procurement contracts.

DEFENSE SMALL BUSINESS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Department of Defense (DoD) has announced establishment of a Defense Small Business Advanced Technology Program to capitalize on the historic creative potential of small high technology firms. The program is designed to promote innovative solutions to scientific and technical problems facing the defense community by increasing the participation of small high technology firms in the Departments' research and development initiatives.

Approximately 20 research and development project areas will be identified for exploration under a three-phase program.

Phase I awards of up to \$50,000 each are contemplated for preliminary research and development to demonstrate the feasibility of those proposals deemed most likely to yield solutions to R & D problems identified by Military Departments.

Contracts under Phase I will last for six months. Based on the results of Phase I, DoD plans to award advanced development contracts ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 each in Phase II for a period of up to two years for the projects judged most promising. Phase III will include follow-up on DoD production awards and/or commercial application of the research and development. Commercial application would be funded with private venture capital. A key figure of the program is its streamlined procedure for reducing the small firms' initial investment in proposal writing. Phase I proposals are limited to 20 pages. The Defense Small Business Advanced Technology Program is designed to augment existing acquisitions processes and to better inform DoD research offices of the technological potential of the small business community. The Program Brochure is scheduled for distribution in April and proposals must be submitted to the respective Services and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency by August 31, 1981. Awards are expected to be made in December, 1981. Details of the new program are available from Hal C. Fischer, Director of Small Business and Economic Utilization Policy, Room 2A-340 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301.

**LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS**

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
LABOR FORCE	48,560	48,140	47,570
Employment	45,530	45,050	45,020
Unemployment	3,030	3,090	2,550
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	6.2	6.4	5.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	168	180	120
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,341	1,446	1,404

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted^{2/} Week That includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,678	1,403	490	246	1,112
New Applicants	624	274	79	40	93
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	MAR 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	350
Openings Received	164

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.6	39.4	40.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.3	23.2	23.4
Construction	0.9	0.9	0.9
Trans. & public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.2	8.2	8.4
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.3
Services & mining	6.0	5.9	5.9
Government	5.4	5.4	5.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.3	16.2	17.0
Durable Goods - Total	6.8	6.8	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	INA	INA	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.5	9.4	10.2
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.6	3.6	4.3
Other nondurable goods	5.9	5.8	5.9

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	MAR 1981	FEB 1981	MAR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



CONTINUED DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

The April unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area fell 0.7 percentage points to 5.5 percent. The area rate is 0.3 percentage points above the state rate of 5.2 percent and 1.5 percentage points below the national rate of 7.0 percent. All of these rates were not seasonally adjusted. Among the ten major labor market areas in the Commonwealth, Fitchburg-Leominster ranked sixth in the order of lowest unemployment rates. The continued decline in the labor area unemployment rate was helped in part by a 13.5 percent reduction in the continued claim load. Manufacturing employment remained stable over the month while 100 positions were lost in the nonmanufacturing area.

NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

In the month of April, the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) revealed general duty nursing, employment interviewing, insurance sales, TV and radio repair work and auto body repair work as high demand occupations.

LOCAL BOND APPROVALS

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) approved a total of \$5,210,000 in tax-exempt, low interest bonds for firms in Leominster. The companies involved expect to create 126 new jobs as a result of the projects.

The Tool House, Inc. will use a \$610,000 bond to purchase the assets, including the manufacturing plant, of the Doreen Brush Company at 18 Crawford St. The Tool House is a distributor of brushes, combs and beauty aids to major chains. Doreen Brush is one of its suppliers, and the purchase will allow Tool House to continue its distribution service. The firm will hire 43 new people as a result of this growth.

Burton Tool and Die Co., Inc., a designer and maker of molds for the plastics industry, was granted a \$1.5 million bond for an addition and new equipment. The firm will construct two additions to its plant at 155 Hamilton St. Equipment will also be purchased. The first addition of 5,550 square feet will be to the ground floor of the main plant. The second addition of 5,048 square feet will be on the second

floor and will house a new CAD/CAM computer system. Burton will be converting its operation to computer-design of plastic molds, making it a national leader in the field. The conversion will bring Burton's Technology up to "state of the art" status, and the company estimates it will double the employment and require a second shift. Thirty-five new jobs are expected to be created.

A \$1 million bond was issued to Stadium Corporation, also known as Hunter Sportswear, a maker of women's clothing. The firm will construct and equip a 24,311 square foot manufacturing plant in the Jytek Industrial Park. A total of 26 jobs will be created by the expansion.

Specialty Polymers, Inc. received a \$1.5 million bond for the construction of a 4,000 square foot manufacturing plant at 50 Francis Street. The firm will also renovate its existing 21,000 square foot plant at the same address. New process equipment and storage tanks will also be purchased. The company manufactures organic chemicals for industrial use. Sixteen new employers will be hired.

A \$600,000 bond was granted to the United Transportation Co., a Rhode Island trucking firm. The company will purchase 4.5 acres of land at 34 Mohawk Drive, with an existing 5,480 square foot building. Renovations will be made and equipment purchased. The facility will serve as a distribution terminal. Six new jobs will result.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
LABOR FORCE	46,760	48,560	47,000
Employment	44,200	45,530	44,600
Unemployment	2,560	3,030	2,400
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	5.5	6.2	5.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	243	168	179
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,130	1,341	1,198

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,751	1,444	425	269	1,110
New Applicants	545	236	73	52	90
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	APR 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	393
Openings Received	159

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.5	39.6	40.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.2	23.3	23.4
Construction	0.9	0.9	0.9
Trans. & public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.1	8.2	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.3
Services & mining	6.1	6.0	6.0
Government	5.3	5.4	5.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.3	16.3	16.9
Durable Goods - Total	6.8	6.8	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	INA	INA	INA
Other durable goods	INA	INA	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.5	9.5	10.1
Rubber & miscellaneous	3.6	3.6	4.1
Plastics products	5.9	5.9	6.0
Other nondurable goods			

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS	APR 1981	MAR 1981	APR 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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SLIGHT INCREASE IN JOBLESS RATE

The May unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area rose 0.4 percentage points to 5.9 percent. The unemployment rate for May of last year was 6.1 percent. The local rate continues to compare favorably with the state rate, which rose 0.5 percentage points to 5.7 and the national rate which went up 0.1 percentage point to 7.1 percent. Of the ten major labor market areas in the state, four reflected lower unemployment rates than the Fitchburg-Leominster area. The rates for the neighboring Clinton and Gardner labor areas were 6.3 and 6.4 percent respectively. Despite the slight increase in the jobless rate, activity in the local unemployment office showed a decrease of 11.4 percent in continued claims and 22.6 percent in initial claims. Therefore, the rate increase may be attributed to an influx of recent graduates and students on summer vacation into the labor force.

EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

Although it remains well below the employment level of May, 1980 total nonagricultural employment did regain 200 positions during the month. All of the gain was in the services industry. Manufacturing remained stable, as durables and nondurables lost and gained 100 individuals respectively. All other industries showed no changes.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of May reveals a number of occupations for which there are many more applicants than job openings. The largest group is made up of construction workers and heavy truck drivers, reflecting the continued slump in housing construction. Other occupations showing a surplus of job applicants are tractor-trailer drivers, secretaries, electronics assemblers, cashiers and fabricated plastic products molders.

POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

The final population count of the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market areas as of April 1, 1980 was 99,957. This figure represents an increase of 2,793 or 2.9 percent, from the 97,164 enumerated in the 1970 census.

The final count of housing units in the labor market area was 37,683. This figure, which includes both occupied and vacant housing units, represents an increase of 5,607 or 17.5 percent from the 32,076 units counted in the 1970 census.

The Leominster Industrial Development Director has reported that local industry and commerce invested more in the city in the first quarter of this year than in all of last year. In fact, total dollar investment by industrial and commercial concerns in the first quarter of 1981 exceeded by nearly 400 percent all investments made in the calendar year 1980.

M.I.F.A. BOND ISSUES

During its second full year of operation, the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency doubled its assistance statewide to industrial and commercial businesses for expanding and improving their operations. Initial approval has been given to \$99.3 million for projects aimed at revitalizing downtown areas. In addition, \$6.2 million in mortgage insurance has been approved for companies investing in new plants and manufacturing equipment. Locally, the New England Milling Company, Inc., received a \$10 million bond for its expansion in Ayer. The firm will build a brick and concrete flour mill capable of holding 15,000 tons of bulk grain on land purchased on Westford Road. Equipment will also be purchased. New England Milling processes flour and distributes it to many major users. The firm expects to hire 40 additional employees upon completion. In Pepperell, a \$500,000 bond was issued to Lomar Realty Trust to allow Linear Dynamics Inc. to expand. Linear develops and markets pneumatic systems. The firm will construct a 24,300 square foot building in Lomar Park on Nashua Road. The firm predicts that the expansion will create 160 new jobs.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
LABOR FORCE	47,030	46,760	47,780
Employment	44,250	44,200	44,830
Unemployment	2,780	2,560	2,950
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	5.9	5.5	6.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	188	243	226
Continued Weeks Claimed	986	1,130	1,214

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,959	1,609	432	317	1,153
New Applicants	857	418	7	93	121
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	MAY 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	364
Openings Received	348

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.7	39.5	40.5
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.4	23.2	23.7
Construction	0.9	0.9	1.0
Trans. & public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.1	8.1	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.3
Services & mining	6.3	6.1	6.2
Government	5.3	5.3	5.5

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	MAY 1981	APR 1981	MAY 1980
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



SEASONAL LOSSES BOOST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Layoffs, seasonal job losses in educational services, and a large influx of students on summer vacation combined to increase the local area unemployment rate by 1.9 percent to 6.8 percent. There was an increase of 1.8 percent for the same period in 1980. The overwhelming contribution to this sharp rise in the rate was a 156.9 percent jump in the number of initial claims filed at the job insurance center. In addition, there was an 11.9 percent increase in continued claims. Despite the large increase, the unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage points below the rate for June, 1980. For the first time in 1981, the labor market rate is higher than both the state rate of 6.4 percent and the national rate of 7.7 percent. All of these rates are not seasonally adjusted. A comparison of the ten major labor market areas finds the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA with the fourth highest unemployment rate for the month of June.

EMPLOYMENT GAINS

In spite of the substantial uprise in the unemployment rate, there were some significant gains in employment over the month. Total nonagricultural employment realized 500 new jobs. Most remarkably, the manufacturing sector accounted for 200 of these jobs, the first increase since March. The plastics industry netted 100 of these positions. In the nonmanufacturing area, the construction industry added 100 new workers. The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) bond releases were a major factor in the rise in construction employment. As a result, many MIFA related building projects have been started, especially in the industrial parks, keeping contractors very busy.

DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

In the month of June, the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) showed the following demand occupations: insurance sales representatives, commercial housekeepers, gate watchguards, television and radio repair people, and employment interviewers. In addition, there is a continuing need for electrical engineers and mold makers.

Labor Market Information (LMI) describes the dynamics of employment opportunities and the work force. It is obtained by measuring and evaluating the various factors that influence the supply and demand for workers. It is used by public and private sector employers, job seekers, students, planners, counselors and placement specialists. LMI is used for economic analyses, policy development, planning education and training programs, and for research in labor market behavior and related topics. It is also used in the allocation of program funds and in determining eligibility for preference in federal procurement contracts.

As one of the principle data-gathering agencies in the field of labor economics, the Division of Employment Security collects, processes, analyses and disseminates data relating to employment, unemployment, wages and hours.

"Labor Market Information, What's Available for Massachusetts" is a new guide which describes the major programs and publications of the Division of Employment Security. All the publications listed in this report may be obtained free of charge.

Copies of "Labor Market Information, What's Available for Massachusetts" may be obtained by contacting the Labor Area Research Dept., C.F. Hurley Bldg., Government Center, Boston, 02114.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	June '80
LABOR FORCE	49,140	47,030	48,130
Employment	45,290	44,250	44,250
Unemployment	3,850	2,780	3,880
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.8	5.9	8.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	188	483	352
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,036	986	1,463

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3,192	1,790	437	340	1,176
New Applicants	698	529	87	57	79
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	JUNE '81
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	300
Openings Received	178

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.2	39.7	40.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.7	23.4	23.9
Construction	1.0	0.9	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.1	8.1	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.3	1.3
Services & mining	6.3	6.3	6.2
Government	5.4	5.3	5.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
Manufacturing - Total	16.5	16.3	16.4
Durable Goods - Total	6.7	6.7	6.7
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.7	3.6	3.5
Other durable goods	INA	INA	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.8	9.6	9.7
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.8	3.7	3.9
Other nondurable goods	6.0	5.9	5.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	JUNE '81	MAY '81	JUNE '80
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



NO CHANGE IN JOBLESS RATE

The July unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area did not vary from the June rate of 7.8 percent. The last time the monthly rate did not fluctuate was in May 1979. Due to the lack of change, the local rate remains higher than both the state rate of 6.7 percent and the national rate of 7.3 percent. These rates are not seasonally adjusted. Among the ten major labor market areas of the state, the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA still ranks fifth by unemployment rates.

Initial claims at the Fitchburg Job Insurance Center dropped 35.4 percent over the month. At the same time, continued claims rose 48.2 percent, a result of seasonal layoffs, particularly among school bus drivers and cafeteria workers.

SEASONAL LOSSES IN AREA EMPLOYMENT

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 1,400 positions during July. Most of the losses were due to vacation shutdowns which traditionally take place during July in the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area. Losses due to these shutdowns are evidenced by the 700 job reductions in the manufacturing sector. Other seasonal losses occurred in the retail trade industry, reflected by a drop of 400 jobs. Also, local government employment decreased by 300 positions, a result of the implementation of Proposition 2½. An encouraging note is the gain of 100 jobs in the construction industry as a result of the building projects in the industrial park.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

A combination of seasonal layoffs and the implementation of Proposition 2½ is responsible for many of the applicant surplus occupations this month. An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of July shows that guidance counselors, elementary and kindergarten teachers, food service managers and school bus drivers are recorded as applicant surplus occupations, all as a direct result of school closings. Other occupations showing a surplus of job applicants are cashiers, cosmetologists, molding machine tenders and electronics assemblers.

LANCASTER ASSISTING PLANNED DIGITAL FACILITY

Lancaster voters have given overwhelming approval to measures designed to assist Digital Equipment Corp. in its plan to build a 755,000 square foot office

facility in North Lancaster. This includes the issuance of a \$1 million bond to help finance a water project to provide both Digital and the proposed 80 store Pyramid companies' shopping mall with water. Digital's immediate plans are to build a 280,000 square foot office research facility that will provide between 700 and 800 jobs. Long range plans call for the construction of two more buildings of similar size which would bring total employment to approximately 2,500.

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS HIT EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Federal budget cuts in the administrative costs of the unemployment insurance and the employment service programs will result in the closing of 11 Division of Employment Security (DES) offices and the combining of services in nine others, according to DES Director Eugene J. Doody. Although the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA will not be affected, nearby Athol will close its satellite service and area residents will have to use the Gardner Job Insurance and Job Match Center for desired services. Because the DES is funded entirely by the federal government, which operates according to a fiscal year beginning October 1, all office closings and consolidations will take place at that time.

In Massachusetts, the federal budget reduction represents a \$4.5 million cut for personnel services and a \$1.3 million decrease in funding for nonpersonnel services such as rent, equipment and supplies.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
LABOR FORCE	48,770	49,150	48,130
Employment	44,940	45,300	44,540
Unemployment	3,830	3,850	3,590
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.8	7.8	7.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	312	483	281
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,700	1,036	1,891

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3,487	1,963	471	335	1,220
New Applicants	913	454	122	61	102
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	JULY '81
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	523
Openings Received	467

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	38.8	40.2	38.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.0	23.7	23.6
Construction	1.1	1.0	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.4	1.5	1.3
Wholesale & retail trade	7.7	8.1	8.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.4	1.3
Services & mining	6.3	6.3	6.1
Government	5.1	5.4	5.7

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
Manufacturing - Total	15.8	16.5	15.3
Durable Goods - Total	6.6	6.7	6.5
Primary & lab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.5	3.7	3.4
Other durable goods	INA	INA	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.2	9.8	8.8
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.6	3.8	3.3
Other nondurable goods	5.6	6.0	5.5

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS	JULY '81	JUNE '81	JULY '80
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



SEASONAL FACTORS PUSH JOBLESS RATE DOWN

The August unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area fell 0.5 percent points to 7.3 percent. This decrease reflects the beginning of the traditional rebound from vacation shutdowns and other seasonal lay-offs. However, the current rate is 0.7 percentage points higher than the rate of one year ago. The jobless rate for both the state and the nation is 7.2 percent or 0.1 percentage points below the local unemployment rate. Initial claims at the Fitchburg Job Insurance Center decreased 59.3 percent while continued claims also fell by 15.5 percent.

EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment gained one thousand positions in August. This represents a recovery of more than 70 percent of the 1,400 reported losses in July. Further evidence of the seasonal rebound is the 800 job increase in the manufacturing sector. The plastics industry accounted for half of the gains. In the nonmanufacturing sector, retail trade increased by 100 positions.

NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of August shows that general-duty nurses, personnel clerks, insurance salespeople, and security guards are in demand. In addition, the local job matching center reports a demand for print press operators, lab technicians and factory supervisors for the plastics industry. There is a continuing and ever-increasing need for machinists.

CHANGE IN MAXIMUM BENEFIT RATE

The maximum benefit rate payable to workers filing new claims for unemployment insurance will increase to \$156 weekly. The new rate applies only to new claims effective on or after October 4, 1981. It is based on the state's average weekly wage for employment covered for the 12 month period ending March 31, 1981. As of that date, the average weekly wage in Massachusetts was \$269.93, up from \$245.48 in 1980. The maximum benefit rate is then calculated at 57.5 percent of the state's average weekly wage rounded to the next highest dollar. Each individual claimant's benefit rate on new claims effective on or after the first Sunday in October will continue to be computed at one-half of his or her average weekly wage up to the new maximum of \$156. Workers whose average weekly wage is more than \$284 will

receive weekly benefits in excess of the current \$142 maximum. In order to qualify for the maximum, a worker must have an average weekly wage of \$312 or more.

BUSINESS EXPANSIONS

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) has approved a \$6 million bond to help finance the expansion of New England Business Service, Inc., a Groton manufacturer of business forms and other office products. Plans call for the construction of a 63,000 square foot, two story addition to its plant at 500 Main Street. The additional space will be used for data processing, marketing, and administrative personnel and industrial equipment required by the business. A total of 400 new jobs are expected to be created by this expansion.

A \$251,000 bond has been issued to Twenty Three Water Street Realty Trust, a Leominster developer. The firm will renovate the building at Twenty Three Water Street into office space. The project is located in a Commercial Area Revitalization District (CARD). Fifteen new jobs should be created.

In Gardner, the Collier-Keyworth Company, a maker of office chair mechanisms and metal bases, has received a \$750,000 bond. The firm will construct a 16,560 square foot addition to its plant at One Tuttle Place. A 1,470 square foot garage will also be built. The company expects to hire 12 new people.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
LABOR FORCE	50,050	48,770	48,890
Employment	46,380	44,940	45,650
Unemployment	3,670	3,830	3,240
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.3	7.8	6.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	127	312	189
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,419	1,700	1,497

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFULFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3,188	1,812	457	320	1,203
New Applicants	461	208	87	54	97
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	August 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	526
Openings Received	198

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.8	38.8	39.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.2	23.0	23.5
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesale & retail trade	7.8	7.7	8.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.4	1.3
Services & mining	6.3	6.3	6.1
Government	5.2	5.1	5.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1981	July 1981	August 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.6	15.8	16.2
Durable Goods - Total	6.6	6.6	6.6
Primary & fab. metals	3.6	3.5	3.4
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.0	3.1	3.2
Other durable goods			
Nondurable Goods - Total	10.0*	9.2	9.6
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.9	3.5	3.8
Other nondurable goods	6.1	5.7	5.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	NA	NA	NA
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Massachusetts Division of Employment Security

Eugene J. Doody, Director

Helen B. Munzer, Director, Job Market Research

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



SLIGHT INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The September unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA rose 0.1 percentage point to 7.4 percent. Traditionally, school reopenings help to reduce the unemployment rate in September. However, the impact of Proposition 2½ has neutralized the factor this year. The unemployment rate for September of last year was 6.3 percent. The local area jobless rate remains higher than both the state rate of 6.5 percent and the national rate of 7.3 percent. These rates are not seasonally adjusted. Among the ten major labor market areas of the state, the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA ranks seventh by unemployment rate.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

Cuts in educational services continue to be responsible for many applicant surplus occupations. Surplus occupations which can be attributed to Proposition 2½ are: vocational guidance counselors, secondary and elementary teachers, teacher aides, administrative assistants, lunchroom attendants, and janitors. An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) data for the month of September shows an increasing number of applicant surplus occupations. Additional occupations showing a surplus of applicants are secretaries, office clerks, receptionists, nurses' aides, plastic press molders, sales clerks, electronic assemblers, and heavy truck drivers.

MONTY TECH CO-OP PROGRAM

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School Co-Op program is in its third year of existence and student participation has more than doubled over this period. During the 1980-81 school year, 107 seniors were employed through this program.

The Co-Op program find a job related to the student's field of study, allowing the student to gain practical experience. Students must meet academic qualifications to be accepted into the program and must maintain a certain level of classroom performance. Students participate in the program on a weekly rotation plan. One of the main advantages of the program to local area employers is a tax credit which allows the employer to deduct 50 percent of the student's wages. Since the inception of the program, many students have continued into full time entry level positions, after graduation, based on their Co-Op performance.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Occupation-Industry Research Department has released a new publication titled "2.5 Million Jobs: The Variety and Distribution of Occupations in Massachusetts, 1978". This occupational profile was derived from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. OES is a periodic mail survey of a sample of nonagricultural establishments to gather wage and salary employment data by occupation. The OES survey-based matrices in this report represent the most detailed tabulations of occupational wage and salary employment available from any source. The survey based matrix provides information on nearly 400 specific industries and over 1,800 specific occupations.

The principle purpose of the survey-based matrix is to develop reliable data and trends in occupational employment, that will improve the ability of those concerned with manpower planning and the efficient utilization of the state labor force, to project occupational requirements. The occupational profiles are also basic to educational and vocational guidance in understanding the effect on individuals and institutions of the anticipated restructuring of jobs. Copies of this publication may be obtained by contacting the Occupation-Industry Research Dept., C. F. Hurley Bldg., Government Center, Boston, Mass. 02114. In addition, the 1982 Annual Planning Information Reports for both Massachusetts and the Boston SMSA are available. These reports may be obtained by contacting the Labor Area Research Dept. at the same address.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
LABOR FORCE	48,230	50,050	47,900
Employment	44,680	46,380	44,880
Unemployment	3,550	3,670	3,020
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.4	7.3	6.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	135	127	132
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,154	1,419	1,161

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,753	1,609	367	292	1,161
New Applicants	606	301	80	63	98
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Sep. 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	468
Openings Received	165

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.9	39.8	39.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.2	23.1	23.6
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.4	1.5
Wholesale & retail trade	8.1	7.8	8.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.4	1.3
Services & mining	6.2	6.3	6.1
Government	4.9	5.1	5.3

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Sep. 1981	Aug. 1981	Sep. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.7	16.7	16.3
Durable Goods - Total	6.7	6.7	6.6
Primary & fab. metals	---	---	---
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.6	3.6	3.5
Other durable goods	3.1	3.1	3.1
Non durable Goods - Total	10.0	10.0	9.7
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.8	3.9	3.8
Other non durable goods	6.2	6.1	5.9

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES

The Fitchburg-Leominster unemployment rate for the month of October dropped 0.1 percentage points to 7.2 percent. This decrease was aided by an 18.3 percent reduction in continued claims at the Fitchburg job insurance center. The local area jobless rate is 0.2 percentage points above the state rate and 0.3 percentage points below the national rate of 7.0 and 7.5 percent respectively. For the month of October, the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA recorded the fourth lowest jobless rate among the ten major labor market areas. At the same time, nonagricultural employment increased by 100 positions over the previous month and year.

NET HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

According to local office personnel, there is continuous demand for plastic molding machine operators, machinists and general duty nurses. In addition, there is a local demand for secretaries and other clerical people.

PWCS RELEASES

It is requested that the Labor Area Research Department be added to local employers' mailing lists in order that we may receive press releases having a bearing on the number of Massachusetts workers; for example, mass recruitment, plant expansions, plant consolidation, and layoffs. The address is printed on the reverse side.

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The Department of Labor has released a listing of areas designated as "labor surplus" or high unemployment areas. This list includes the towns of Harvard, Phillipston, and Royalston from north central Massachusetts. In order to be designated as labor surplus an area must have had unemployment which averaged at least 20 percent above the national rate during calendar years 1979 and 1980. Since the national average for the two years was 6.6 percent, an area needed to have experienced unemployment at least 7.9 percent to qualify. Massachusetts has had lower unemployment than the nation for two years, so only 46 cities and towns qualified as labor surplus areas. Furthermore, the Labor Department classified an additional 21 Massachusetts cities and towns as labor surplus areas per exceptional circumstances criteria. Included on this list were Ashby, Ayer, and Shirley. Employers located in these labor surplus areas are eligible for preference when bidding for Federal contracts. The aim is to help put a portion of

the federal government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in severe economic needs - where unemployment is highest. The current labor surplus area designations are effective from June 1, 1981 through May 31, 1982.

MASSACHUSETTS INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AGENCY

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) has recently issued two bonds in the city of Leominster. Plastic Inc. Co. a maker of blow molded plastic shipping containers, received a \$2.7 million bond to renovate a 120,000 square foot plant at 272 Nashua Street. Equipment will also be purchased. A total of 45 new jobs should result from the growth. Also, a \$250,000 bond was issued to Dionne Envitrol Corporation, a manufacturer of sheet metal fabrications, weldments, and HVAC equipment. The firm will purchase an existing 8,400 square foot plant and construct a 3,500 square foot addition. Equipment will also be purchased. Four new jobs are expected to be created.

Since its inception in late 1978, MIFA has issued more than \$850 million in industrial revenue bonds to over 600 companies statewide (80 percent classified as smaller businesses), which have produced over 32,000 jobs. The bonds pay for plant and equipment purchases and are about the best way for smaller companies to go in a capital short-high interest economy.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
LABOR FORCE	49,850	48,350	48,980
Employment	46,240	44,800	45,990
Unemployment	3,610	3,550	2,990
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.2	7.3	6.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	154	139	210
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,142	1,154	1,073

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	Information Not Available				
New Applicants					
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Oct. 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	INA
Openings Received	

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm
Vo. 6 No. 10 October 1981

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.0	39.9	39.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.4	23.2	23.6
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.6	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.1	8.1	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.3
Services & mining	6.2	6.2	6.0
Government	5.1	4.9	5.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1981	Sep. 1981	Oct. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.6	16.7	16.3
Durable Goods - Total	6.7	6.7	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	1.5	1.5	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.6	3.6	3.6
Other durable goods	1.6	1.6	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.9	10.0	9.5
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.8	3.8	3.5
Other nondurable goods	6.1	6.2	6.0

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings	INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE		
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



CONTINUED DECLINE IN JOBLESS RATE

The November unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster labor market area dropped 0.1 percentage points to 7.1 percent. The local area jobless rate remains above the state rate of 6.4 percent and well below the national rate of 7.9 percent. In comparison to the local area rate, the contiguous labor market areas of Clinton and Gardner also experienced decreases in their unemployment rates. The Clinton area rate fell 1.4 percentage points to 6.9 percent. The rate for the Gardner area dropped from 8.7 percent to 7.3 percent. Among the ten major labor market areas in the Commonwealth, the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA recorded the seventh lowest jobless rate in November. All rates are unadjusted.

STABLE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment remained level during the month of November. The manufacturing sector lost 400 jobs with makers of nondurable goods accounting for 300 of the positions. Three quarters of the loss was made up by local retailers as they hired 300 people to service the holiday shoppers. Retail employment was actually up 100 positions over the previous November.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

An analysis of the Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) for the month of November shows that office workers, nurses' aides, plastic press molders, electronic assemblers, and truck drivers continue to head the list of surplus applicants. In addition, educational services remains a large contributor to the surplus as many teachers, counselors, and teacher aides are available.

SURVEY OF HOSPITAL EMPLOYMENT

The Occupational/Industry Research Department has completed a survey of the hospital industry in Massachusetts. In the past, health manpower studies have been significantly limited by occupational employment data not being readily available. Titled "An Occupational Profile of Hospital Employment in Massachusetts 1980", this survey was conducted in order to develop an occupational profile of the hospital industry statewide. In addition to providing a current source of employment patterns, the information should prove valuable in the planning and evaluation of classroom and on-the-job training programs, job development and placement, establishment of a comprehensive occupation information system, and projection of future employment

requirements. Copies of this report are available in the Occupational/Industry Research Department, C. F. Hurley Bldg., Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts, 02114.

OPENINGS AND AVERAGE PAY BY OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY

The following table lists the number of November openings and average pay, by occupational category, for both the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA and the state. The information contained in this table was obtained from the job bank opening data base.

Mass. Compared to the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA, Nov. 1981

Occupational Category	#Openings Available		Average Pay	
	State	SMSA	State	LMA
Total-All Occupations	6,559	183	\$ 9,221/yr	\$ 9,973/yr
Prof., Tech., Managerial	566	10	13,200/yr	15,182/yr
Clerical & Sales	1,625	23	8,314/yr	7,868/yr
Service	1,534	27	4.05/hr	3.64/hr
Processing	154	30	4.15/hr	3.86/hr
Machine Trades	519	14	5.01/hr	4.69/hr
Bench Work	650	12	3/87/hr	3.60/hr
Structural Work	674	25	5.83/hr	7.02/hr
Miscellaneous	837	42	3.98/hr	4.13/hr

The average pay for all occupations listed with job bank for the labor market area is 7.5 percent higher than the average statewide. However, only three of the occupational categories account for the higher average pay.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
LABOR FORCE	50,430	49,850	48,430
Employment	46,870	46,240	46,190
Unemployment	3,560	3,610	2,240
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.1	7.2	4.6
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	217	154	183
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,392	1,142	1,031

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	3,652	2,100	508	331	1,780
New Applicants	784	192	73	54	128
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Nov. 1981
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	239
Openings Received	211

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.0	40.0	40.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.8	23.4	23.8
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.6	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.4	8.1	8.3
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.4
Services & mining	6.1	6.2	6.0
Government	5.3	5.1	5.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Nov. 1981	Oct. 1981	Nov. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.2	16.6	16.3
Durable Goods - Total	6.6	6.7	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	INA	INA	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.6	3.6	3.6
Other durable goods	3.0	3.1	3.2
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.6	9.9	9.5
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.6	3.8	3.5
Other nondurable goods	6.0	6.1	6.0

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings	Information Not Available		
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Massachusetts Division of Employment Security
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Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



JOBLESS RATE GOES UP

Following a two month decline, the Fitchburg-Leominster unemployment rate increased a full percentage point to 8.1 percent. One year ago the rate was 4.7 percent. The local area jobless rate is well above the state rate of 6.9 percent and slightly below the national rate of 8.3 percent. Among the ten major labor market areas, the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA owns the fifth highest rate. The Clinton and Gardner labor market areas also showed increases. Clinton rose to 7.4 percent while Gardner jumped 1.2 percentage points to 8.5 percent.

The increase in the jobless rate was stimulated by a 22.5 percent increase in continued claims and a 40.9 percent increase in initial claims.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Furthermore, nonagricultural wage and salary employment showed a decline during December. 100 positions were lost in the nondurable goods area. All other industries remained stable. Compared to the previous year, nonagricultural employment has actually increased by 200 jobs.

THE HIGH DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

Local office personnel report an increasing demand for plastics molding machine operators. In addition, there is a continuous demand for machinists and general duty nurses.

MASSACHUSETTS INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AGENCY

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency has recently approved a bond to Wagner Enterprises, Inc., a Clinton firm engaged in plastic injection molding and the manufacture of display lamps and signs. The firm will renovate a 48,000 square foot facility at 530 Main Street. Equipment will also be purchased. A total of 25 new jobs will result. The bond will be issued by the Clinton Industrial Development Finance Authority.

The December issue of Massachusetts Profiles for the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA is the last regular issue. Due to severe cuts in federal funds, the Division of Employment Security regretfully announces that it must terminate the following publications: Massachusetts Cities and Towns, Massachusetts Trends, Massachusetts Labor Turnover in Manufacturing, and Massachusetts Profiles for each of the 10 major labor market areas in the state.

The statistical data contained in these publications will be available in the Job Market Research library on the second floor of the Hurley Building. Some of the statistical information contained in these publications will be available during 1982 in a revised Massachusetts Employment Review publication. If you would like to be put on this mailing list, please write to the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, Charles F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114. Be sure to include your complete address and zip code. The information you provide us will be fed into our new computer program which will enable us to deliver information more efficiently. If you know of others who would like to be on our new mailing list, please have them send us their addresses.

If any additional funding becomes available during the year, we will add to our list of publications on a selective basis. Your comments on the value of and uses for the publications you have been receiving would help us to focus our decisions.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
LABOR FORCE	50,150	50,430	48,310
Employment	46,060	46,870	46,050
Unemployment	4,090	3,560	2,260
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	8.1	7.1	4.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	389	217	366
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,716	1,392	1,199

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants					
New Applicants					
(This Month)		I	N	A	

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	
Openings Received	I N A

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.9	40.0	39.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.8	23.8	23.7
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.0
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.6	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	8.4	8.4	8.4
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.3	1.4
Services & mining	6.1	6.1	6.0
Government	5.3	5.3	5.5

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1981	Nov. 1981	Dec. 1980
Manufacturing - Total	16.1	16.2	16.0
Durable Goods - Total	6.6	6.6	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	3.6	3.6	3.6
Machinery (exc. electrical)	--	--	--
Other durable goods	3.0	3.0	3.2
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.5	9.6	9.2
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.6	3.6	3.4
Other nondurable goods	5.9	6.0	5.8

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	II	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO GROW

For the ninth consecutive month unemployment rose in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA, reaching a total of 5,710 persons out of work, the largest number since February of 1976 when the jobless numbered 6,160. The unemployment rate of 10.8 percent continued for a second month in double digits and was the highest since the 11.7 rate in March of 1976. Numerically, there were 360 more unemployed than in May.

SOME SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT GAINS

Despite the upsurge in unemployment the number of persons employed marked up its second straight monthly increase, climbing by 640. Although only about one half the seasonal gain in June 1981, it did incorporate a small increment in agriculture and some accessions in plastics manufacturing, in finance, insurance and real estate, and in services.

OVER-THE-YEAR DECLINE

The total estimated employment in the SMSA in June 1982 of 47,290 was identical to that in June 1981. This seeming stability in the economy is illusory, however, when you look at other over-the-year comparisons. The labor force expanded by 2,120 which equalled the increase in the number unemployed, reflecting a failure of the economy to grow so as to be able to absorb the new entrants and re-entrants to the labor force who were looking for jobs. Employment in nonfarm establishments in the SMSA was only down by 100 jobs, but the manufacturing sector has lost 800 jobs in the year. Continued weeks claimed for unemployment insurance are higher by 71.5 percent over June 1981.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NORTHERN WORCESTER COUNTY

All four labor market areas in northern Worcester County continued to have double digit unemployment rates in June. While the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA was experiencing its second consecutive month over this level, the Gardner LMA and the Clinton LMA were seeing a third straight month and the Athol LMA a sixth straight one. The Athol LMA in June had the highest unemployment rate for any labor market area in the state.

June 1982 Figures

	Athol LMA	Clinton LMA	Gardner LMA
Labor Force	12,500	10,310	21,930
Employment	10,500	9,220	19,440
Unemployment	2,000	1,090	2,490
Unemployment Rate	16.0	10.6	11.4

NEW PLANT IN FITCHBURG

In the spring the Dennison Manufacturing Co., headquartered in Framingham, opened a new plant in Fitchburg for the production of plastic ties and fasteners. The 40,000 square

foot plant is in the Montachusett Industrial Park and employs 75 people. The company expects to hire more people as more equipment is installed.

MACHINE OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The Greater Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce is utilizing funds provided by the Private Industry Council and the Montachusett Employment Training Program to train 13 people on entry-level machine operator skills at the Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. This program has been started to help fill a long-term need in the area for machinists. This marks the first time that a nonprofit business organization such as the Chamber has been selected to institute and run such a program in cooperation with a governmental agency. An advisory committee from local firms provides advice. They are American Tool & Machine Co., Fitchburg Engineering, General Electric Co., R & W Machine Co., and Simonds Cutting Tools.

NET HI-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

At the end of June there were registered with the D.E.S. in the area 2,663 applicants and 505 unfilled openings, a ratio of 5.3 to one. Net Hi-demand occupations, where the ratio of openings to applicants was the highest, include material handlers, assemblers of small products, security guards, administrative clerks, and injection-molding machine tenders.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	June 1982	May 1982	June 1981
LABOR FORCE	53,000	52,000	50,880
Employment	47,290	46,650	47,290
Unemployment	5,710	5,350	3,590
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	10.8	10.3	7.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	219	178	483
Continued Weeks Claimed	1777	1828	1036

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2663	1079	498	261	296
New Applicants	693	279	96	89	68
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	June 1982
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	505
Openings Received	278

^{1/} Available During the Month

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1982	May 1982	June 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	41.6	41.4	41.7
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25.6	25.4	24.9
Construction	1.5	1.5	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.8	1.8	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	9.1	9.1	8.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.2	1.3
Services & mining	6.5	6.4	6.4
Government	5.4	5.4	5.6

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1982	May 1982	June 1981
Manufacturing - Total	16.0	16.0	16.8
Durable Goods - Total	6.6	6.7	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.5	3.6	3.6
Other durable goods	--	--	--
Non durable Goods - Total	9.4	9.3	10.0
Rubber & miscellaneous	--	--	--
Plastics products	3.9	3.7	4.2
Other non durable goods	5.5	5.6	5.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	June 1982	May 1982	June 1981
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT IN STEEP DROP

The month of August saw a much bigger drop in unemployment in the Fitchburg-Leominster area than the seasonal pattern of recent years. The unemployment rate dropped back into single digits to 9.6 percent, the lowest since the 9.4 rate of April. The number out of work fell by 1,680, which is almost 10 times the drop of last August.

The experience of this SMSA, however, was not unique. The state unadjusted rate also showed a major contraction, as did every labor market area in the state, big or small. In north central Worcester county the Athol area rate went from 20.3 to 14.6 percent; the Clinton area rate from 12.2 to 10.0 percent; and the Gardner area rate from 14.5 to 9.8 percent. Reasons for the spectacular reductions in the jobless figures lie in a rebound in manufacturing employment as hundreds returned to work from unpaid vacations in July, in the exodus from the labor force of many students who gave up their search for work and so are not longer counted as unemployed, and in the CPS adjustment process. Nonmanufacturing showed virtually no change, with small accessions in finance, insurance, and real estate offset by a dip of 100 in government employment. Continued unemployment claims with the DES in the SMSA declined to 2,009, the fewest since last March.

the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA continues to have one of the higher jobless rates among major areas in the state. Its 9.6 percent rate is only exceeded by the Fall River area rate of 10.1 percent and the New Bedford area rate of 11.3 percent.

HIGH NET DEMAND OCCUPATIONS

In the month ending 8/31/1982 the following occupations were in high net demand in comparison with the number of applicants registered with the DES: sales managers, housekeepers, restaurant cooks, kitchen helpers, and counter attendants.

PLACEMENTS

The Fitchburg Job Matching Office filled 995 of the 1,972 job openings received from October 1981 through August 1982. The following is a percentage breakdown of job placements by occupations: clerical, 22.4 percent; packaging and material handling, 21.1 percent; "other" services, 20.6 percent; processing, 12.4 percent; bench work, 7.2 percent; motor freight transportation, 3.9 percent; sales, 3.2 percent; machine trades, 2.9 percent; structural, 2.4 percent; professional, technical and managerial, 1.6 percent; all others, 2.3 percent.

COMPARISON OF CLAIMANTS TO POPULATION

The following is a comparison of the percentage breakout by residence within the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA of those persons who collected unemployment benefits in May 1982 and the percentages of population of the cities and towns

compared to the labor area population at the time of the 1980 census. The city of Fitchburg residents made up 47.1 percent of the claimants, while its population accounted for 39.6 of the total LMA. Leominster's ratios were fairly close in both cases, with 36.1 percent of the claimants and 34.5 percent of the population. Lunenburg had 4.8 of the claimants and 8.4 percent of the population; Westminister 4.3 percent of the claimants and 5.2 percent of the population; Townsend 4.1 percent of the claimants and 7.2 percent of the population; and Shirley, 3.6 percent of the claimants and 5.1 percent of the population.

SBA OFFERS DETAILS ON RAD PROGRAM

Small high-technology firms interested in federal funding to develop an idea to meet governmental needs should take advantage of the new Small Business Innovation Research Program now starting up at many federal agencies. For more information write to SBIR Program, U.S. Small Business Administration, 1441 L Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20416. SBA is coordinating all the SBIR programs. Twice a year, SBA will mail potential applicants a handy master list of all federal RAD solicitations within the SBIR program.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Aug. 1982	July 1982	Aug. 1981
LABOR FORCE	52,860	53,060	51,620
Employment	47,760	46,280	48,150
Unemployment	5,100	6,780	3,470
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	9.6	12.8	6.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	264	421	127
Continued Weeks Claimed	2009	2299	1419

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2465	929	525	266	256
New Applicants	460	168	75	59	25
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Aug. 1982
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	344
Openings Received	216

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Aug. 1982	July 1982	Aug. 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.8	39.4	40.5
Nonmanufacturing - Total	24.7	24.7	24.2
Construction	1.6	1.6	1.3
Trans. & public utilities	1.7	1.7	1.6
Wholesale & retail trade	9.0	9.0	8.5
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.3	1.2	1.2
Services & mining	6.3	6.3	6.2
Government	4.8	4.9	5.4

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Aug. 1982	July 1982	Aug. 1981
Manufacturing - Total	15.1	14.7	16.3
Durable Goods - Total	6.4	6.5	6.6
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.4	3.5	3.6
Other durable goods	--	--	--
Non durable Goods - Total	8.7	8.2	9.7
Rubber & miscellaneous	--	--	--
Plastics products	3.5	3.4	4.0
Other non durable goods	--	--	--

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT TAKES UPWARD TURN

After a two month's drop in August and September unemployment rose slightly in October in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA by 0.2 percentage points. Although this is not an encouraging development, the jobless rate (9.4 percent), and the number out of work (4,800) are still lower than they were in four of the last five months. This SMSA continues to have the third highest rate of the ten major labor market areas in the state.

EMPLOYMENT MOVEMENT IS STAGNANT

Employment changes in area establishments were minor over the month. Manufacturing work rolls were unchanged in toto, while nonmanufacturing fell off by 100. The only industry change of more than 100 was a decline in Services of 200.

RACIAL DESCRIPTION OF UI CLAIMANTS

A survey of UI claimants from the cities and towns in the SMSA in October shows that the city of Fitchburg is being hit harder proportionately than the other communities. Of the 1,623 claimants 48.9 percent are from that city, even though only 39.6 percent of the people live there (as of the 1980 census).

The comparative ratios of the population and of the current claimants in the communities are:

City or Town	Percent of Population	Percent of Claimants
Leominster	34.5	32.1
Lunenburg	8.4	4.5
Shirley	5.1	4.5
Townsend	7.2	4.7
Westminster	5.2	5.3

The proportion of the claimants who are nonwhite, Spanish surnamed or "other" (6.0 percent) closely matched their percentage in the total population (5.9 percent).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Job Market Research Service of the Mass. Division of Employment Security has recently published several research reports, which identify industry groups which are expected to show higher than average employment growth during the decade of the 1980's. They include Business Support Services Employment in Massachusetts 1975-1980, which spotlights the hefty growth in Research Laboratories, Management Consulting Services, Computer and Data Processing Services. The report Biomedical-Biotechnical Employment in Massachusetts 1977-1980 describes an industry category with over 400,000 jobs in the state during 1980. Defense Spending and Massachusetts Employment, 1972-1980 gives the

background of defense spending in Massachusetts, which has been among the top seven states receiving Military Prime Contracts. An updated High Technology Employment in Massachusetts and Selected States 1975-1981 compares our progress in this important growth sector with that in competitive states.

Those who are interested in any of these reports or in executive summaries of them are asked to write to: Division of Employment Security, Job Market Research Publications, C.F. Hurley Building, Government Center, Boston, Massachusetts 02114.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

According to the latest available data (September 1982) the following are applicant surplus occupations in the SMSA: School teacher, secondary; School teacher, elementary; Secretary; Administrative Clerk; Maintenance mechanic; Acoustical carpenter; Construction worker; Tractor-trailer truck driver; and Water truck driver.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Oct. 1982	Sept. 1982	Oct. 1981
LABOR FORCE	52,030	52,140	52,000
Employment	47,150	47,340	48,610
Unemployment	4,880	4,800	3,390
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	9.4	9.2	6.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	288	219	154
Continued Weeks Claimed	1927	1777	1142

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants					
New Applicants					
(This Month)		I	N	A	

^{1/} Available During the Month

Vol. 7 October 1982

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	oct. 1982
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	INA
Openings Received	

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1982	Sept. 1982	Oct. 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.4	40.5	41.4
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25.1	25.2	24.9
Construction	1.5	1.6	1.3
Trans. & public utilities	1.8	1.8	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	9.1	9.0	8.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.2	1.2	1.2
Services & mining	6.2	6.4	6.4
Government	5.3	5.2	5.4

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1982	Sept. 1982	Oct. 1981
Manufacturing - Total	15.3	15.3	16.5
Durable Goods - Total	6.3	6.4	6.8
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.4	3.4	3.6
Other durable goods	2.9	3.0	3.2
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.0	8.9	9.7
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.5	3.5	3.9
Other nondurable goods	5.5	5.4	5.8

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE - MAILING LIST UPDATE

Massachusetts Profiles are available for ten major labor markets in Massachusetts: Boston SMSA, Brockton, Fall River, Fitchburg-Leominster, Lawrence-Haverhill, Lowell, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, and Worcester. They are designed for people who want current regional labor market information for public policy or business decisions. If you wish to CONTINUE to receive Massachusetts Profiles after the end of the calendar year, please specify the Region(s) for which you wish to receive copies by writing to:

Publications Staff
Massachusetts Division of Employment Security
Job Market Research Publications
C. F. Hurley Building
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Boston, Massachusetts 02114

CENTRAL REGION APIR PUBLISHED

The DES Annual Planning Information Report (APIR) Fiscal Year 1983 in Central Massachusetts is now available. The Worcester DMA and the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA are analyzed in particular detail. A two page Executive Summary or the complete report can be requested. This report, and similar ones for the State as a whole and its main geographical areas, provide demographic and socio-economic information, as well as labor market conditions and employment developments by industry and occupation.

For copies of this or any other report please specify the report and write to the address given in the section above.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SOLICITATIONS

Applications for grants for projects in the Human Services field are now being solicited by the Office of Grant Inquiries, Division of Research Grants, Westwood Building, Room 449, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, 20205.

Most of the funds will come from the National Institute of Health, which has \$5.6 million available for distribution. It is expected that about 100 projects will receive 1983 support funding at an average of \$50,000 each. Deadlines for admission of applications are March 15, July 1, and November 1, 1983, with starting dates of September 1983, April 1984, and July 1984, respectively.

UNEMPLOYMENT GOES UP AGAIN

After a sizeable and unexpected drop in unemployment in November in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA it went back up again in December by a full percentage point to 9.0 percent. The fall-off in employment of 1,230 persons was

more than three times the rise in unemployment, with the difference representing a further shrinking of the labor force to its lowest level since February 1982. Continued weeks claimed for unemployment compensation hit their highest level since early in 1976. This SMSA had the third highest unemployment rate of all the major areas, being surpassed only in the Fall River and New Bedford Labor Market Areas.

EMPLOYMENT STAGNANT OVER THE YEAR

The apparent spurt in employment in November seems to have been temporary. Total employment dropped to almost the same level it showed in January 1982 after moving up to the year's peak of 47,760 in August. Nonagricultural employment in establishments within the SMSA declined because of a 500 job cutback in manufacturing industries for both durable and nondurable goods, with minor additions to workrolls in wholesale and retail trade (+100) and in government (+100) failing to offset the factory losses.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982 ^{2/}	Dec. 1981
LABOR FORCE	50,910	51,740	52,540
Employment	46,350	47,580	48,590
Unemployment	4,560	4,160	3,950
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	9.0	8.0	7.5
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	530	295	389
Continued Weeks Claimed	2241	1854	1716

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2646	981	570	182	INA
New Applicants	788	355	123	48	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Dec. 1982
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	189
Openings Received	176

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Dec. 1981
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40,100	40,400	41,500
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25,300	25,100	25,300
Construction	1,400	1,400	1,200
Trans. & public utilities	1,800	1,800	1,800
Wholesale & retail trade	9,200	9,100	9,300
Finance, ins. & real estate	1,200	1,200	1,200
Services & mining	6,200	6,200	6,300
Government	5,500	5,400	5,500

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1982	Nov. 1982	Dec. 1981
Manufacturing - Total	14,800	15,300	16,200
Durable Goods - Total	6,100	6,300	6,900
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3,400	3,400	3,600
Other durable goods	--	--	--
Nondurable Goods - Total	8,700	9,000	9,300
Rubber & miscellaneous	--	--	--
Plastics products	3,400	3,400	3,700
Other nondurable goods	--	--	--

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT DROP**

The month of February presented some mixed signals about the employment picture in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA. Unemployment declined by 340 at the same time that total employment fell even more, by 610. Evidently the difference between these figures represents at least temporary withdrawals from the labor force for seasonal reasons or because of discouragement over job prospects. The net result is an apparent improvement in the unemployment situation as the rate dropped from 11.3 percent to 10.8 percent.

MACHINIST TRAINING PROGRAM

The Greater Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce is again planning to run an entry level Machinist Training Program (MTP). The courses will consist of 400 hours of classroom and shop training and will operate from June to August 1983. It will be a daytime program running 40 hours per week. The program will be conducted at either Leominster Trade High School or Montachusett Vocational Technical School.

BLS NEWS RELEASES AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has inaugurated an electronic news release service which permits persons interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain access directly from the computer in which they are stored. National BLS releases which are available on-line over telephone lines to computer terminals include: a) The Employment Situation; b) Statements by the Commission for the Joint Economic Committee of Congress; c) Producer Price Indexes; d) Consumer Price Index; e) State and Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment.

The BLS will still make its releases available to the press in the conventional manner. A recorded summary on prices and employment data can be dialed on a 24 hour telephone line - 202-523-9658.

COMPARISON OF THE UNEMPLOYED FROM THE CENSUS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DATA

The 1980 Census estimated that 135,310 individuals were unemployed in Massachusetts. Active job seekers not working who were registered with the Employment Service in March 1980 numbered 114,209 (84.4 percent of the individuals identified by the Census). Within the Boston SMSA, the 1980 Census estimated the number of unemployed individuals as 61,261. The Employment Service Automated Reporting System (ESARS) recorded 52,002 unemployed individuals registered with the employment service as of March 31, 1980. This represents 84.9 percent of the unemployed individuals within the Boston SMSA enumerated by the census. Within the Balance of Massachusetts, 74,049 individuals were

identified by the Census as unemployed. ESARS data indicated that in March 1980, active DES job seekers not working within the Balance of Massachusetts numbered 62,207.

FREE EDUCATION FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

In the first week of February Mount Wachusett Community College registered nearly 100 unemployed students in its Skills Extension Program. Recipients of unemployment benefits from the Division of Employment Security who have exhausted their benefits or used at least 20 weeks of their benefits by January 31 were entitled to enroll in the program.

CITY OF FITCHBURG A LABOR SURPLUS AREA

The City of Fitchburg was one of 12 areas in 10 states designated as a labor surplus area at the end of 1983, a classification which will be continued through May 31, 1983. This was a special determination made at this time by the U. S. Department of Labor for a number of communities which had experienced high joblessness since the last classification and had been petitioned for by the appropriate State Employment Security Agency. Every year in May the Department of Labor announces a list of civil jurisdictions (cities or towns in Massachusetts) which are labor surplus areas and hence, eligible for federal procurement preference from June 1st of that year through May 31 of the following year.

**LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS**

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983	Feb. 1982
LABOR FORCE	47,290	48,240	49,190
Employment	42,160	42,770	44,580
Unemployment	5,130	5,470	4,610
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	10.8	11.3	9.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	231	303	208
Continued Weeks Claimed	2470	2562	2097

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2776	1025	609	212	11A
New Applicants	360	142	72	28	11A
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

Vol. 8 February 1983

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Feb. 1983
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	231
Openings Received	154

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983	Feb. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	37.8	37.5	39.1
Nonmanufacturing - Total	22.6	22.4	INA
Construction	0.8	0.9	INA
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.6	INA
Wholesale & retail trade	7.6	7.6	INA
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.6	1.6	INA
Services & mining	6.2	6.2	INA
Government	4.8	4.5	4.9

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983	Feb. 1982
Manufacturing - Total	15.2	15.1	INA
Durable Goods - Total	5.7	5.7	INA
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	INA
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.8	3.8	INA
Other durable goods	--	--	INA
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.5	9.4	INA
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.7	3.5	INA
Other nondurable goods	--	--	INA

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Feb. 1983	Jan. 1983	Feb. 1982
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	II	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

During April 1983 the unemployment rate continued its steady decline. Over the month it decreased from 10.0 to 8.4 percent, a drop more attributable to labor force losses of 860 people among the unemployed rather than to employment gains which amounted to 420. The labor force losses were due to temporary withdrawals caused by seasonal factors in addition to discouraged workers who have had little success in finding employment. All of the employment gains occurred within the nonmanufacturing sector, the greatest being in the service industry which rose by 200 workers. Manufacturing remained unchanged at 15,300 as both nonmanufacturing and manufacturing were both well below one year ago levels by 800 and 1,100 respectively.

NEW PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

A new publication titled Wage and Salary Data for Selected Occupations, Boston and Worcester Metropolitan Areas, Western and Northern and Southeastern Regions is being published by the Occupation/Industry Research Department. This report provides wage and salary data for selected office, professional, technical, and plant occupations surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of their Area and Industry Wage Survey program. The occupations surveyed are those common to both the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing sectors.

Area Wage Surveys for selected areas can be obtained at the bookstore in the JFK Building, Government Center, Boston, MA. or by calling the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the same address.

FUTURE WAGE SURVEYS

The Occupation/Industry Research Department of the Division of Employment Security anticipates collecting data for its own area wage surveys commencing in August 1983. Wage and salary data for all regions of the state would be collected. Pending available funding for the proposed program, publication is projected to begin in the spring of 1984.

TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR HIRING TEENAGERS

Under new legislation, employers are allowed to deduct 85 percent of the first \$3,000 in salaries paid to each disadvantaged youth aged 16 or 17 years old that they hire for summer employment. However, teenagers must first be certified by the Division of Employment Security before starting employment.

JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) which replaces CETA,

be administered by the States rather than by federal agencies. Next year, Massachusetts will receive \$59,191,076 for the training program. The governor will allocate the funds according to the following guidelines: Twenty-two percent is to be used for administration, technical assistance to areas providing training services, incentive programs, and coordination of state educational services; the remaining 78 percent will go to the regional Service Delivery Areas in the state. The SDA's will then decide how to best allocate the money. Local Private Industry Councils will help to decide what training programs will be offered. The councils will be comprised of representatives from the Division of Employment Security, Public Welfare Department, educational community, local business, and community based organizations.

LABOR SURPLUS AREA CLASSIFICATIONS EXTENDED

There is good news for those cities and towns that were scheduled for Labor Surplus Area Decertification as of May 31, 1983. Under new legislation, they will now remain certified until October 1, 1983. This will be good news for many areas for they will remain eligible for federal procurement preference for an extra four months.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982
LABOR FORCE	48,740	49,180	49,420
Employment	44,670	44,250	44,640
Unemployment	4,070	4,930	4,780
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	8.4	10.0	9.7
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	222	172	293
Continued Weeks Claimed	1908	2379	2074

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3369	1305	604	332	INA
New Applicants	1421	648	109	271	INA
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

Vol. 8 April 1983

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Apr. 1983
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	697
Openings Received	307

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	38.8	38.4	39.6
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.5	23.1	23.0
Construction	1.0	0.9	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.7	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	7.8	7.7	7.7
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.6	1.6	1.6
Services & mining	6.4	6.2	5.9
Government	5.1	5.0	5.0

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982
Manufacturing - Total	15.3	15.3	16.4
Durable Goods - Total	5.7	5.7	6.3
Primary & fab. metals	0.6	0.6	0.8
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.8	3.8	4.0
Other durable goods	1.3	1.3	1.5
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.6	9.6	10.1
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.8	3.8	3.8
Other nondurable goods	5.8	5.8	6.3

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



INDUSTRIAL BONDS HELP CREATE NEW JOBS IN AREA

The Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency has recently approved industrial revenue bonds totalling over \$1.5 million for two firms in the area. Both projects may create an estimated 92 jobs. Chem-Design Corporation will construct a 25,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility from a \$1.1 million bond. The firm will produce pharmaceutical and photographic chemicals. Job projections are estimated at this facility of between 65 and 80 new jobs over the next four years.

While proceeds from a \$425,000 bond will be used to purchase and renovate a 26,000 sq. ft. building in Leominster. The renovated structure will be leased for office space, creating 12 new jobs.

BUSINESS-COLLEGE ALLIANCE TO HELP SOLVE PROBLEMS

An inexpensive solution to business problems for area companies has been initiated by Fitchburg State College. At the same time the program, called Business Laboratory, aids students to gain valuable on-the-job experience. During its first semester of operation the Business Lab has assisted 15 local firms with a number of different marketing and management projects. The Business Lab is structured as a small scale consulting firm which resolves management, marketing or research projects under a contract with a business client. Business or community agencies interested in using the Business Laboratory should contact the department chairman, Business Administration Department at Fitchburg State College.

LEOMINSTER BEGINS NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A major construction project to improve city streets and intersections is scheduled to begin in August. The \$1.8 million project will include improvements in traffic patterns by replacing traffic lights, lowering street levels to provide greater clearance under railroad overpasses. Also included in the project will be access ramps for the handicapped. Construction is expected to take approximately two years to complete. About seven or eight construction workers plus supervisors will be utilized for this project.

NEW HIGH TECH FIRM TO SETTLE IN FITCHBURG

Spectro USA Inc. a small mid-Western high technology company has completed an agreement to relocate in the city of Fitchburg's Industrial Park. The firm produces optical emissions spectrometers which are devices that analyze chemicals in solids and liquids. According to a company official Massachusetts was chosen "because its an expanding area that we can grow with". Another consideration was

Massachusetts "lower business tax rate and corporate incentives". Fitchburg was selected because the firm was impressed with the outstanding help provided by public and private groups in creating an innovative financing arrangement. Once their 6,000 sq. ft. plant is completed the firm will employ 10 employees. The company will be looking for manufacturing and office personnel.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES SEASONALLY

The Fitchburg-Leominster LMA saw a 3 percent over the month increase in its labor force. During this same time period those looking for employment increased by 14 percent. A considerable portion of this upturn in job seekers can be explained by students and new graduates entering the labor force. The net effect on the labor market area was an increase in the unemployment rate from 8.6 percent in May to 9.6 percent in June. However, if the state's economy continues to improve and new jobs continue to be created within the local area, unemployment should resume a downward trend.

Manufacturing employment in the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA dipped 1.8 percent from May; while at the same time nonmanufacturing showed a 4.6 percent increase.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1/ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2/ AND YEAR		
	June 1983	May 1983	June 1982
LABOR FORCE	50,450	48,920	51,342
Employment	45,620	44,700	45,541
Unemployment	4,830	4,220	5,801
Unemployment Rate 3/	9.6	8.6	11.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	263	230	219
Continued Weeks Claimed	1518	1693	1849

1/ By Place of Residence
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3082	1126	650	300	INA
New Applicants	706	297	103	37	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS 1/	June 1983
Unfilled Openings 2/	821
Openings Received	282

1/ Available During the Month

Vol. 8 June 1983

1/ At End of Period 2/ Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1983	May 1983	June 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.4	39.4	40.3
Nonmanufacturing - Total	24.8	23.7	23.9
Construction	1.0	1.1	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.6	1.6	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	8.0	7.9	8.0
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.7	1.6	1.6
Services & mining	6.7	6.5	6.6
Government	4.8	5.0	4.8

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	June 1983	May 1983	June 1982
Manufacturing - Total	15.6	15.7	16.4
Durable Goods - Total	5.7	5.6	6.3
Primary & nonmetals	.6	.6	.8
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.8	3.7	4.0
Other durable goods	1.3	1.3	2.5
Nondurable Goods - Total	10.0	9.9	10.1
Food & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	4.2	4.3	3.9
Other nondurable goods	5.8	5.6	6.2

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	June 1983	May 1983	June 1982
Average Weekly Earnings	I	N	A
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



AREA UNEMPLOYMENT IN BIG DROP

The month of August saw a considerable improvement in the unemployment picture for the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA, as the unemployment rate fell back to 7.4 percent of the labor force, the lowest percentage in over a year and a half. The last lower rate, 6.5 percent, occurred in November 1981. The estimated number unemployed was more than 10 percent fewer than in July. Continued unemployment claims, less partials, continued the downward path they have followed in every month since January 1983, except for the vacation-affected month of July.

SLIGHT INCREASES IN EMPLOYMENT

Some withdrawals from the labor force reduced the effect of a small shrinkage in total employment, thus making possible the lower unemployment rate. Nonagricultural employment registered no change, thus staying at 37,900. This apparent lack of movement, however, masked two offsetting developments, the return to work of manufacturing workers from July vacation, which brought manufacturing work rolls back to their June level, and the absence from work of almost 400 striking telephone company workers reflected in the Transportation, Communications and Public Utility figures.

NEW FOOD WAREHOUSE COMING

The DES Job Matching Center in Fitchburg began accepting job applications in July for a new Heartland supermarket due to open in the early fall. They are seeking bakery clerks, cashiers, dairy clerks, deli clerks, grocery stockers, meat cutters, meat wrappers, and produce clerks. The positions will be permanent part-time. Those hired will start at \$2.65 per hour, going to \$3.85 after 6 months with regular increases to \$6.27 per hour. Experienced meat cutters, however, will receive \$11.37 per hour.

GARY CHEMICAL CONTINUES TO GROW

Continuing an expansion program begun in 1982, Gary Chemical is building a new office complex adjoining its plant in the Pioneer Industrial Park in Leominster. The building will house corporate headquarters and all the sales and financial departments of the company. The company manufactures PVC and specialty compounds, and nitrile rubber blends used in the wire and cable, shoe, medical and allied industries.

COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAM

The Montachusett Employment & Training Program, Inc. in Gardner is accepting applications for Computer Operator and Computer Test Technician Training to be given in a 16-week course starting in September. The course teaches basic programming, computer arithmetic, peripheral devices, programming language and the like.

To qualify students must (1) have a high school diploma or GED, (2) meet program guidelines as to reading and math abilities, and (3) meet income eligibility guidelines. Applications can be made at the Montachusett Employment and Training location in Gardner, the State Division of Employment Security office in Fitchburg and the WHEAT office in Clinton.

LOCAL COLLEGES OFFER AID TO UNEMPLOYED

Fitchburg State College again this year is offering to waive tuition payments for qualified unemployed who apply for their fall semester session. Tuition will be free for those out of work who have exhausted their benefits or received at least 20 weeks of benefits. The college will also waive all student fees.

Any students receiving unemployment benefits can enroll for as many as 11 credit hours of study, while those who have exhausted their benefits can enroll as full-time students. Admission will be on a seats available basis. Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner will also be participating in this program for a second year. This college is offering a Skills Extension Program. Applicants are eligible to participate in any of the college's programs for either a degree program or for individual courses. Classes offered include basic education, business, social science and electronics engineering technology.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	August 1983	July 1983	August 1982
LABOR FORCE	49,260	50,050	50,950
Employment	45,590	45,940	45,810
Unemployment	3,670	4,110	5,140
Unemployment Rate ^{2/}	7.4	8.2	10.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	133	163	264
Continued Weeks Claimed	1275	1596	2009

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFULFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2318	948	512	248	171A
New Applicants	1019	554	108	70	171A
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	August 1983
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	1250
Openings Received	335

^{1/} Available During the Month

Vol. 8 August 1983

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Claim and Nonclaim

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1983	July 1983	August 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	37.9	37.9	38.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	22.3	22.8	23.0
Construction	1.1	1.1	1.2
Trans. & public utilities	1.0*	1.4	1.5
Wholesale & retail trade	7.8	7.8	7.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.6	1.6	1.6
Services & mining	6.4	6.4	6.5
Government	4.4	4.5	4.3

* Labor Dispute

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	August 1983	July 1982	August 1982
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

UNEMPLOYMENT IN BROAD DECLINE

In October the jobless rolls declined in every labor market area in the state except in Barnstable and Nantucket counties and in the Gloucester LMA. The Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA saw a sizeable dip to 3,690 out of work, or 7.5 percent of the labor force, the second lowest in 1983 to August's 7.4 percent. This drop confirms the feeling that the rise in unemployment in September was not an accurate indicator of underlying trends.

EMPLOYMENT SHOWS MIXED MOVEMENT

Although total employment rose by 440, the picture presented by employment in establishments within the LMA is a somewhat different scene, as its total was down by 100 over the month. Also, a number of industries, such as nonelectric machinery manufacturing and several nonmanufacturing sectors, still have fewer jobs now than a year ago. One notable exception is the plastics manufacturing industry, which has been running above 1982 monthly employment since June and, in October, was 600 above the number of jobs in October 1982.

FITCHBURG A LABOR SURPLUS AREA

Effective on October 1, 1983, the start of the federal government's fiscal year, the city of Fitchburg has again been designated a labor surplus area, eligible for federal procurement preference through September 30, 1984. Fitchburg is one of 52 Massachusetts communities so designated and the only one in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA. One town in the Gardner LMA, Ashby, is also so classified.

Under the U. S. Department of Labor's classification procedures a civil jurisdiction is classified as a labor surplus area if its unemployment rate is at least 1.20 times the national unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years. The threshold rate in this determination was a 10.0 percent jobless rate.

GENERAL ELECTRIC RECEIVES NAVY CONTRACT

The General Electric Corporation's Mechanical Drive Turbine and Compressor Department in Fitchburg has been awarded an \$8.2 million contract by the Navy for five turbine generator sets for the LHD-1, a large assault ship to be built by the Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Litton Industries in Mississippi. It is expected that 4 additional ships of this class will be built later.

Present indications are that work on this contract will not require hiring additional personnel, but it will help to stabilize employment at the Fitchburg plant.

GRANT TO LEOMINSTER

The state Executive Office of Communities and Development has awarded the city of Leominster a \$650,000 Community Development Action Grant (CLAG) for construction of a roadway plus water and sewer lines to a proposed industrial park off Willard Street.

The city applied for this grant on behalf of two local companies which plan to expand their operations at the 110 acre site. Tucker Housewares, which makes plastic household goods, will be spending \$4.5 million to build a 278,000 square foot warehouse-assembly plant on 45 acres. This is expected to create 250 construction jobs and, when completed, 28-30 permanent jobs and 24 part-time jobs. Further plant expansion is foreseen in from two to five years time.

The other company to benefit is Near East Food Products, a manufacturer of rice products, which will spend \$2.3 million to build a 54,000 square foot plant. With this new facility the company will double its production capacity and need about 16 new workers.

This grant will be administered by the Montachusett Referral Planning Commission.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR ^{3/}		
	Oct. 1983	Sept. 1983	Oct. 1982
LABOR FORCE	49,040	48,900	50,190
Employment	45,350	44,910	45,190
Unemployment	3,690	3,990	5,000
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.5	8.2	10.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	120	126	268
Continued Weeks Claimed	899	963	1927

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	3303	1505	556	295	INA
New Applicants	675	324	96	73	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Sept. 1983
Unfilled Openings	
Openings Received	353

^{1/} Available During the Month of September - INA for October
Vol. 8 October 1983

^{1/} At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1983	Sept. 1983	Oct. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.1	39.2	39.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.2	23.1	23.6
Construction	1.0	1.1	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.3	1.3	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	6.0	7.9	8.1
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.7	1.7	1.6
Services & mining	6.3	6.5	6.4
Government	4.9	4.6	4.7

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Oct. 1983	Sept. 1983	Oct. 1982
Manufacturing - Total	15.9	16.1	15.6
Durable Goods - Total	5.7	5.7	5.6
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	9.8	3.3	3.9
Other durable goods	1.9	1.9	1.9
Nondurable Goods - Total	10.2	10.4	9.8
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	4.3	4.4	3.7
Other nondurable goods	5.9	6.0	6.1

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor

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JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT IN SEASONAL RISE

Repeating the pattern of recent years, the jobless rate in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA rose in December to 7.5 percent from the November rate of 6.7 percent. The rate for the year 1983 averaged 8.7 percent, a considerable improvement over the 10.1 average for 1982. After starting the first quarter of 1983 in double-digit unemployment rates, which were above 1982 percentages for the comparable time period, the jobless figures for the balance of the year ran at an average of better than two percentage points lower than for the year before.

The SMSA, however, cannot be said to have recovered from the recession yet, as joblessness was still way above pre-recession levels, being more than 1½ times that in December 1980 and 1979 and higher than for any December (except 1982) since 1976.

Unemployment in the Northern Worcester County Service Delivery Area (SDA) also averaged out at 8.7 percent for 1983. Under the federal Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) this grouping of 23 communities will be the base for the development of employment and training programs in the area under a Private Industry Council (PIC).

EMPLOYMENT SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE

While total employment of residents in the SMSA was down somewhat, the job rolls at establishments located within the area grew by a relatively insignificant 100 slots over the month. Manufacturing was unchanged, but the gain of 300 in trade at the Christmas season tipped the scales to the plus side.

IMPROVED JOB PROSPECTS FOR 1984

A survey by Manpower Inc.'s Fitchburg area office, reported in their quarterly Employment Outlook Survey, shows that 33 percent of them plan to hire additional workers in the first quarter of 1984. Only seven percent expect staff reductions and fifty-seven percent plan no changes in work rolls. A year ago only 13 percent of employers indicated plans to hire. Industrial sectors where employment gains are foreseen are in durable goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, services and education.

EXPANSION OF CHEMICAL FIRM

The Massachusetts Capital Resource Company, a partnership of five Massachusetts-based life insurance companies, has announced a \$1,135,000 investment in the ChemDesign Corporation, a company located in Fitchburg. The funds will be used to enlarge the company's position in the fine and specialty chemical market, which sells principally to the pharmaceutical and photographic industries. The new plant will begin operations sometime in 1984. This partnership

of insurance companies has invested about \$100 million in 28 companies in the state since they joined forces five years ago to help support business expansion in Massachusetts.

NEW FURNITURE FACTORY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

In November construction began on a \$500,000 addition to the plant of the Moduform Company in the Montachusett Industrial Park in Fitchburg. The one-storey addition will cover 33,600 square feet and will be used to manufacture special institutional furniture. Financing is through the Union National Bank of Lowell by industrial revenue bonds. Construction is scheduled for completion in May of 1984.

NEW JERSEY FIRM TO MOVE SUBSIDIARY TO FITCHBURG

The Bogue Electric Manufacturing Company of Paterson, N.J. is planning to transfer in March 1984 its Faith Manufacturing Company subsidiary to Fitchburg's vacant Crocker Technical Paper Co. mill 5. This division assembles diesel engine generators and supplies to U.S. governmental agencies such other assembled products as battery chargers, winterization kits, output control boxes and other components. The city of Fitchburg supported the company's move by finding a suitable facility and making funding available. The company will employ about 50 persons when it opens and plans to employ between 200-300 within two years.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
LABOR FORCE	49,770	49,670	49,140
Employment	46,050	46,330	44,560
Unemployment	3,720	3,340	4,580
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	7.5	6.7	9.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	411	217	530
Continued Weeks Claimed	1216	971	2241

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2079	753	488	228	INA
New Applicants	802	303	120	92	INA
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}		Dec. 1983
Openings Received		360

^{1/} At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.4	39.3	39.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	23.6	23.5	23.6
Construction	1.0	1.1	1.1
Trans. & public utilities	1.3	1.3	1.7
Wholesale & retail trade	6.3	8.0	6.2
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.7	1.7	1.6
Services & mining	6.2	6.3	6.3
Government	5.1	5.1	4.9

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Dec. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1982
Manufacturing - Total	15.9	15.8	15.4
Durable Goods - Total:			
Primary & fab. metals	5.7	5.7	5.7
Machinery (exc. electrical)	---	---	---
Other durable goods	3.8	3.8	3.8
	1.9	1.9	1.9
Nonurable Goods - Total	10.1	10.1	9.7
Rubber & miscellaneous	4.2	4.2	3.7
Plastics products			
Other nonurable goods	5.9	5.9	6.0

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

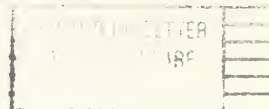
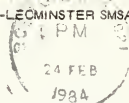
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA



Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Job Market Research Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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Massachusetts Profiles

Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

**BIG DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT**

The month of February saw a drop in unemployment in every labor market area in the state. The decline of 1.1 percentage points in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA, from 7.9 percent to 6.8 percent of the labor force, mirrored the statewide picture of 1.0 percentage point drop, although the area rate is at a higher level (the state rate was 6.3 percent). The two other northern Worcester County LMA's, Gardner and Clinton, remained considerably higher, both at 7.9 percent.

The Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA unemployment rate of 6.8 percent and the number of those out-of-work, 3,430, were still higher than in the three pre-recession years of 1979-1981, so that considerably more improvement is needed before regional recovery can be claimed. Nonfarm employment within the SMSA was unchanged for the month, but seasonal withdrawals from the labor force, plus some gains in employment for residents outside the area resulted in the lowered rate.

LEOMINSTER-THE PLASTICS CITY

Plans are proceeding apace for the establishments of a National Plastics Museum in Leominster to be located in the former Lancaster School. Building renovations are scheduled to begin in the spring. This project is being promoted on a national basis in recognition of Leominster's pivotal role in the industry from its inception up to the present. As of February, 3,900 were employed in the plastics industry in the Fitchburg-Leominster LMA or 9.0 percent of total labor market employment. Fitchburg-Leominster's plastics employment represent a 13.4 percent share of statewide plastics employment.

NEW DES OFFICE IN FITCHBURG

In late January the DES opened a new office in a storefront at 120 Main St. Opened officially by DES Director Kristin Demong in the presence of local officials, the office is more accessible to the public and has a better physical layout for its clients and our employees. The office will continue to provide both unemployment insurance and employment services. In 1983 the Fitchburg office served an average of 1,650 claimants per week, filled more than 1,600 job openings, and paid out more than \$15 million in unemployment insurance benefits.

A REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In January a merger took place between the Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce and the Leominster Chamber of Commerce to form a new organization called the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. This combined organization will provide a strong voice for business activities and needs in the area.

MAJOR EMPLOYER LOOKS TO FUTURE

The General Electric Co. located in Fitchburg in March publicly revealed its "1990 Program" of diversification which has been developed by 30 teams of employees. New products have been developed to supplement the sagging sales of turbines to utility firms and the once large sales to the Navy. One is a centrifuge compressor, others are turbines for the petro-chemical industry and co-generator turbines. Products are being designed on computers and manufactured by computers wired to a computerized brain called CADAR.

OPENINGS FOR APPLICANTS IN THE DES FILE

As of February the DES active file listed 2,162 applicants and 798 unfilled openings. The ratio of applicants to openings is 2.1 to 1. Demand occupations with 10 or more openings, which equalled or exceeded the number of applicants, were in descending order, Cashier, Service Station Attendant, Restaurant Cook, Nurse's Aide, and Security Guard.

Applicant surplus occupations in which the number of applicants exceeded the number of openings, although they did amount to 10 or more openings were, again in descending order, Injector-molding machine operators, Material Handlers, Carpenters, Administrative Clerks, and Hand Packagers.

**LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS**

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
LABOR FORCE	50,470	50,870	48,620
Employment	47,040	46,860	43,540
Unemployment	3,420	4,010	5,080
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	6.8	7.9	10.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	595	384	231
Continued Weeks Claimed	1293	1356	2494

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted**AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS**

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2202	761	503	252	INA
New Applicants	576	217	112	63	INA
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	Feb. 1984
Openings Received	227

^{1/} Available During the Month

Vol. 2 February 1984

^{1/} At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	40.6	40.6	38.8
Nonmanufacturing - Total	24.2	24.3	23.2
Construction	1.0	1.1	1.1
Trans. & Public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.6
Wholesale & retail trade	8.4	8.5	7.9
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.2	1.2	1.2
Services & mining	6.3	6.4	6.1
Government	5.8	5.6	5.3

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
Manufacturing - Total	16.4	16.3	15.6
Durable Goods - Total	6.7	6.6	6.5
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.6	3.7	3.6
Other durable goods	3.0	3.0	2.8
Nondurable Goods - Total	9.7	9.6	9.2
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	3.9	3.9	3.9
Other nondurable goods	5.7	5.7	5.4

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1983
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOURTH LOWEST OF MAJOR LMA'S

In April the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA had the fourth lowest unemployment rate of the ten major labor market areas in the state, 5.2 percent. The three lowest rates were the Lowell LMA at 3.9 percent, the Boston SMSA at 4.3 percent, and the Worcester LMA at 4.8 percent. The area's rate was lower than that of the two other LMA's in Northern Worcester County, the Clinton LMA at 6.0 percent and the Gardner LMA at 6.3 percent.

NON-MANUFACTURING IN SEASONAL UPTURN

For the third consecutive month nonfarm employment increased in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA. With 600 additional workers hired by establishments within the area, April's 42,000 employment level was 2,000 over the April 1983 figure.

Manufacturing employment showed some slowdown, with rubber and plastics and miscellaneous durables both losing 100 jobs. This slack was more than compensated for, however, by seasonal gains in such nonmanufacturing categories as construction; transportation, communications, and utilities; and services. The biggest jump was in wholesale and retail trade which benefitted from a late Easter and added 400 more workers. Since April of 1983 trade is up by 1,300 jobs or 15.9 percent.

CHANGES IN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION OF MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING

Pursuant to a decision by the U. S. Department of Labor we have made a change, starting with this month's data, in the industry classification of durable and nondurable manufacturing. Specifically, miscellaneous manufacturing (SIC 39) has been changed from a nondurable goods to a durable goods status.

According to the third quarter 1983 insured employment figures, there were about 600 workers employed in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA in SIC 39, with about 40 percent of them employed in the manufacture of toys and sporting goods (SIC 394) and the balance in miscellaneous categories (SIC 399).

At some future date we will adjust our employment series for prior years. During the interim, data users can make this adjustment by subtracting SIC 39 from nondurable goods and adding its number to durable goods.

INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS BENEFIT AREA

In April and May the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency (MIFA) approved industrial revenue bonds for expansion of several Leominster firms, which will result in an estimated 87 new jobs.

Company	Type of Business	Estimated Jobs
Leaktite Corp.	Manufactures painting accessories	20
Vertipile, Inc.	Manufactures printed fabrics	35
S.A.Y. Indus.	Process and bottles motor oil	15
Basque Plastics Corp.	Makes plastic parts and molds	7

SUMMER JOBS FOR TEENAGERS

The Targetted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) allows employers who hire economically disadvantaged youth a tax credit on the total salary paid to each youth. To be eligible for this program a summer job applicant must be 16 or 17 years of age and a member of a low-income family. Employers are encouraged to contact local DES offices for further information or to list job openings.

COMMUTING PATTERNS

According to 1980 Census Journey to Work Data, the City of Fitchburg has 17,566 workers 16 years of age and over. Of that number, 54.9 percent lived and worked in the City of Fitchburg. Almost 16 percent of Fitchburg workers commuted to the City of Leominster and 3.1 percent to Westminister. Almost 3.8 percent of the Fitchburg employed traveled to the Boston SMSA for work.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	April 1984	Mar. 1983	April 1983
LABOR FORCE	51,350	51,050	48,520
Employment	48,520	47,960	44,900
Unemployment	2,830	3,090	4,620
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	5.2	6.1	8.2
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	175	134	222
Continued Weeks Claimed	992	1193	1775

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2380	905	516	313	INA
New Applicants					
(This Month)	649	317	95	125	INA

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	April 1984
Openings Received	552

^{1/} Available During the Month

^{1/} At End of Period

April 1984

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	April 1984	Mar. 1984	April 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	42,000	41,400	40,000
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25,700	24,900	23,900
Construction	1,300	1,100	1,300
Trans. & Public utilities	1,600	1,500	1,600
Wholesale & retail trade	9,500	9,100	8,200
Finance, ins. & real estate	1,200	1,200	1,200
Services & mining	6,400	6,200	6,400
Government	5,700	5,800	5,200

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	April 1984	Mar. 1984	April 1983
Manufacturing - Total	16,300	16,500	16,100
Durable Goods - Total	6,700	6,800	6,700
Primary & fab. metals	-	-	-
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3,700	3,700	3,600
Other durable goods	3,000	3,100	3,100
Nondurable Goods - Total	9,600	9,700	9,400
Rubber & miscellaneous	-	-	-
Plastics products	3,900	4,000	3,300
Other nondurable goods	5,700	5,700	5,500

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	April 1984	Mar. 1984	April 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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AREA UNEMPLOYMENT IN SEASONAL RISE

Unemployment in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA rose from its year's low in May of 4.0 percent (also the lowest since the 3.8 percent of October 1979) up to 4.8 percent. Most of the 460 additional unemployed are new entrants or reentrants into the labor force from the ranks of students seeking summer jobs and new graduates. The increase of 0.8 percentage points equalled the average June surge in the two previous years, 1982 and 1983, and so is not predictive of any worsening of the economy. The June 1984 rate is 4.5 percentage points below the June 1983 unemployment rate of 9.3 percent.

Relative to other major labor market areas, however, the standing of the SMSA declined slightly. In May the area's unemployment rate of 4.0 percent had been the third lowest in the state. However, the Fitchburg-Leominster rate dropped to fifth lowest, being bested by Lowell at 3.9 percent, Boston, at 4.0, Worcester at 4.7 percent and Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke, also at 4.7 percent, in the month of June.

EMPLOYMENT HITS NEW HIGHS

Total employment of residents of the SMSA grew for the fifth consecutive month to 49,790, and for the third consecutive month set a new high, at least since the current data series was begun in 1975. Nonagricultural payroll employment also reached a record high in June of 43,100. Of the 400 new jobs filled this month, half were in manufacturing. A net gain of 200 occurred in "other nondurable goods" manufacturing, the major components of which in this area in descending order of size are paper, printing, apparel, chemicals, textiles, leather, and food. Employment in most nonmanufacturing industries was stable, with the addition of 200 jobs in services the significant change. The failure of construction to grow reflects a weakness in building activity which is unusual for this month of the year. The number of jobs in June 1984 was 100 less than in June 1983.

The extensive recovery of the local economy is apparent when over-the-year changes are scanned. Total resident employment has grown by 8.5 percent and nonfarm rolls by 5.4 percent. The strongest gains are in wholesale and retail trade, which has benefitted from the opening of new stores, the need for extra help since repeal of the Sunday closings, and increased purchases in a stronger economy, resulting in 1,100 more jobs than a year ago. However, after gains every year since 1977, services employment has apparently reached a plateau,

being unchanged over the year for the fourth consecutive month.

APPLICANT SURPLUS OCCUPATIONS

One of the reasons there continues to be some unemployment even in the best of times is the mismatch of the skills or preferences of job applicants with the available job openings. The occupations in the SMSA listed with the DES as of June 30th which have the largest surplus of applicants in relation to unfilled job openings are: Construction Worker I, ratio 12-1; Administrative Clerk, ratio 3-1; Construction Worker II, ratio 39-1; Packager/Hand, ratio 1.7-1; Truck Driver, Heavy, ratio 6.8-1; Carpenter, ratio 15-1; Clerk, General, ratio 6.8-1; Tractor-Trailer, Truck Driver, ratio 6.3-1; Teacher, Elementary, ratio 4.3-1; and Clerk, Sales, ratio 7-1.

The occupational distribution of the 2,335 active applicants by group was as follows: Professional, Technical and Managerial, 14.2 percent of total; Clerical and Sales, 21.5 percent; Service, 8.4 percent; Agricultural, Fishing and Forestry, 0.8 percent; Processing, 7.1 percent; Machine Trades, 6.2 percent; Benchwork, 6.2 percent; Structural, 15.2 percent; and Miscellaneous, 19.7 percent.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	June 1984	May 1984	June 1983
LABOR FORCE	52,310	51,310	50,600
Employment	49,790	49,250	45,300
Unemployment	2,520	2,060	4,700
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	4.8	4.0	9.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	189	108	263
Continued Weeks Claimed	735	741	1399

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{2/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	2608	1110	516	343	214
New Applicants	653	326	101	85	114
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	June 1984
Openings Received	381

^{1/} Available During the Month

June 1984

^{1/} At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	June 1984	May 1984	June 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	43.1	42.7	40.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	26.4	26.2	25.0
Construction	1.4	1.4	1.5
Trans. & Public Utilities	1.6	1.6	1.6
Wholesale & retail trade	9.0	9.5	8.5
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.2	1.2	1.3
Services & mining	6.9	6.7	6.9
Government	5.7	5.6	5.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	June 1984	May 1984	June 1983
Manufacturing - Total	16.7	16.5	15.9
Durable Goods - Total	5.7	6.6	6.5
Primary & fab. metals	--	--	--
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.7	3.6	3.6
Other durable goods	3.0	3.0	2.9
Nondurable Goods - Total	10.0	9.9	9.4
Rubber & miscellaneous			
Plastics products	4.0	4.1	3.8
Other nondurable goods	6.0	5.8	5.6

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	June 1984	May 1984	June 1983
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	I	N	A
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Shirley, Townsend, Westminster.

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION

Unemployment in Late Summer Rise

After three months of an unemployment rate under 5 percent, the jobless total in August rose by 1.0 percentage points to 5.5 percent in the Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA. This jobless rate is lower than that of all the months in the first quarter of 1984. It is also well below the year ago August rate of 7.1 percent and is the lowest August unemployment rate since 1979. The SMSA had the third lowest rate of the ten major areas in July at 4.5 percent, but was in fifth place in August, behind the Lowell LMA (3.8 percent), the Boston SMSA (4.3 percent), the Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke LMA (5.0 percent), and the Worcester LMA (5.2 percent). The nearby Gardner LMA had an unemployment rate of 6.4 percent.

Some Gains in Establishment Employment

The addition to nonfarm payrolls of 300 workers resulted from the return to work from unpaid vacations of individuals employed in manufacturing industries. In nondurable goods, the plastics industry brought back a net 200 workers, despite some layoffs, and miscellaneous other nondurables also added back 200. Nonmanufacturing showed no net change with the only movement in trade, up 100, offset by a similar drop in finance, insurance and real estate.

Over the year, wholesale and retail trade has expanded the most, adding 1,200 workers. Some of the expansion has resulted from the opening of new stores. The need for more part time help to handle Sunday openings has also been a factor.

New Covered Employment Figures Document Recovery

ES-202 covered employment figures have just been released for the first quarter of 1984. With this 2-digit and 3-digit industry breakout, a more detailed review of how all segments of the local economy have participated in the current recovery can be made.

Compared with the average for the first quarter of 1983, the largest numerical increase has been in retail food stores, where there are 291 additional jobs. The opening of a new Heartland store brought many of these jobs. The second largest job gain was 194 in eating and drinking places. Other industries with 75 or more jobs added over the year are printing and publishing (+171), rubber and plastics manufacturing (+120), building construction general contracting (+116), fabricated metals manufacturing (+102), local government (+93), motor freight transportation and warehousing (+89), auto dealers and service stations (+87), and wholesale trade-durable goods (+79).

However, the recovery has not been universal. Employment in two manufacturing industries remained unchanged: textiles and paving and roofing materials. Five manufacturing industries shrank in size, ophthalmic goods (-210 jobs), furniture and fixtures (-158), paper and allied products (-95), leather products (-32), and mineral products (-2).

Claims Picture Mixed

The number of claims varies depending on the date of the survey

week and the season, so that the meaning of variations is not always clear. The 949 continued claims (less partials) in August 1984 are 25.6 percent fewer than the year before. On the other hand, initial claims of 248 are 86.5 percent greater than the August 1983 figure, and 155.7 percent higher than the July 1984 figure. The significance of this high initial claim figure as an indicator of a trend is greatly reduced, however, when you look at both the initial claims figure for the following week of just 141 and the fact that two local manufacturers had one week layoffs.

Claims Down in Every City and Town of the SMSA

In August 1984 in the Fitchburg DES local office, 701 of the claims were paid to residents of the SMSA. The number from each city and town and their percent share of the SMSA were: Fitchburg, 319 and 45.5 percent; Leominster 242 and 34.5 percent; Lunenburg 51 and 7.3 percent; Shirley 20 and 2.8 percent; Townsend 30 and 4.3 percent; and Westminster 39 and 5.6 percent. In the labor area 93.4 percent of claimants were white, 3.3 percent black, 2.7 percent Spanish surnamed, and 0.6 percent other races. Every community has fewer claims than in August 1983.

The percentage of claimants from the city of Fitchburg (45.5 percent) is considerably higher than its 39.6 percent share of the 1980 SMSA population. Westminster also had a higher percentage of claims than its share of SMSA population, 5.6 percent to 5.2 percent. Leominster had the same percentage of each, 34.5 percent. The three other towns in the SMSA had smaller percentages of claims to population, Lunenburg 7.3 vs 8.4, Shirley 2.8 vs 5.1, and Townsend 4.3 vs 7.2.

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	August 1984	July 1984	August 1983
LABOR FORCE	51,790	51,230	51,020
Employment	48,920	48,930	47,420
Unemployment	2,870	2,300	3,600
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	5.5	4.5	7.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	248	97	133
Continued Weeks Claimed	949	996	1,275

^{1/} By Place of Residence^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	2,286	1,020	475	270	
New Applicants	817	408	130	101	
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	August 1984
Openings Received	623

^{1/} At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000's)		
	August 1984	July 1984	August 1983
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	41,300	41,500	39,900
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25,600	25,600	23,900
Construction	1,500	1,500	1,500
Trans. & Public utilities	1,400	1,400	1,000 ^{1/}
Wholesale & retail trade	9,600	9,500	8,400
Finance, ins. & real estate	1,200	1,300	1,300
Services & mining	6,300	6,800	6,800
Government	5,100	5,100	4,900

^{1/} Strike

**AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES**

ITEMS	August 1984	July 1984	August 1983
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings	INA	INA	INA

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER MASSACHUSETTS STATISTICAL AREA

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

The unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster Area dropped significantly from the year ago level of 8.9 percent to 5.5 percent in January 1985. However, this rate rose slightly over the month from December's 4.9 percent because of seasonal factors.

Over the year, the area's labor force contracted 1,760 participants for a drop of 3.9 percent, while total employment declined by only 130 jobs or 0.3 percent. The large drop in the labor force was caused primarily by the reduction in the number of unemployed, thereby resulting in the lower unemployment rate.

Unemployment insurance claims for January decreased modestly from last year by 65 claimants but were up seasonally from December by 190. In the previous month, continued weeks claimed dropped significantly. This resulted from unemployed individuals accepting temporary jobs during the Christmas season. The increases in January claims are attributable to seasonal layoffs in construction, wholesale and retail trade, and in some service industries.

SUBSTANTIAL NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Area nonmanufacturing jobs increased 1,200 positions or 5.2 percent over the twelve month period. Good employment improvement was shown by wholesale and retail trade which grew by 1,600 jobs above year ago levels. Other subsectors showing some job gains during the year were construction; the financial group; services; and government. Only transportation and public utilities failed to record any gains. Manufacturing jobs in the area declined 500 positions over the year or 3.6 percent. In the durable goods sector, employment increased 200 positions from last year or 3.3 percent but nondurable goods positions dropped by 700 jobs or 6.9 percent. A significant drop in durable goods jobs occurred in machinery (except electrical). This area subsector showed a loss of 2,200 jobs.

LEOMINSTER COMPANY PLANS TECHNICAL CENTER

Folsysar, Inc. plans to build a plastic technical center to research new product development. The facility, when completed later this year, will employ 20 people. Most of these jobs will be filled by additional workers. According to company officials, the proximity of the center to the University of Mass Polymer Research Center and other research groups in the state is a definite advantage. Another benefit from the location will be the availability of highly skilled workers in the area.

EMPLOYMENT CENTER OPENS IN GARDNER

A state grant of \$225,000 to fund a worker assistance center

was recently announced. The center is similar to an Employment Service Office but is directed toward laid off workers from specific companies. Services available at the center will include job search, job counseling and job training. This particular center is located at Mount Wachusett Community College. The State has opened other employment centers when major layoffs have occurred. The program was cited by the U. S. Department of Labor as one of the most responsive operations to plant closings in the nation.

SPECIAL HELP FOR FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER AREA BUSINESSES

Fitchburg-Leominster was chosen as the first area in Worcester County to become a business banking center by the Shawmut Bank. These centers will offer a variety of services to business people including; financial, business advice, and labor resource conditions. Fitchburg-Leominster was considered ideal for this pilot project in Worcester County because of its small and mid-sized companies. The Twin City area has almost 600 companies with annual sales of \$250,000 or more.

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LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
DEPOSITED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE 1' UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH 2 AND YEAR		
	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1984
LABOR FORCE	42,990	44,430	44,750
Employment	40,630	42,240	40,760
Unemployment	2,360	2,190	3,990
Unemployment Rate 3/	5.5	4.9	8.9
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..	1,582	1,392	1,647
Initial Claims	168	231	139
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,414	1,161	1,508

1/ By Place of Residence
3/ Not Seasonally Adjusted

2/ Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS 1/	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISAD- VANTAGED
Active Applicants	1,701	669	483	199	264
New Applicants	462	617	92	55	65
(This Month)					

JOB OPENINGS 1/		Jan. 1985
Openings Received	151	

1/ Available During the Month

1/ At End of Period

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT 20031		
	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1984
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	37.7	39.1	37.0
Nonmanufacturing - Total	24.3	25.6	23.1
Construction	1.3	1.6	1.1
Trans. & Public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.6
Wholesale & retail trade	9.0	9.6	8.4
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.4	1.2
Services & mining	6.7	6.9	6.6
Government	4.4	4.6	4.2

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT 20031		
	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1984	Jan. 1984
Manufacturing - Total	13.4	13.5	13.9
Durable Goods - Total	6.2	6.3	6.0
Primary & fab. metals	x x	x x	x x
Machinery, exc. electrical	3.3	3.8	6.0
Other durable goods	2.4	2.5	2.4
Nondurable Goods - Total	7.2	7.2	7.9
Rubber & miscellaneous	3.2	3.1	3.6
Plastics products	x x	x x	x x
Other nondurable goods	4.0	4.1	3.6

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

TEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

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GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Ashby, Ashburnham, Westminster

FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER - MSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER MSA 2ND QUARTER OF 1985

AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS

During the second quarter of 1985 the unemployment rate for the Fitchburg-Leominster MSA ranged from a low of 4.2 percent in May to a high of 5.1 percent in June. April's rate was 4.3 percent. On average for the 1985 second quarter period the unemployment rate was 4.5 percent and this compared with an average unemployment rate of 5.3 percent for the second quarter. For the earlier first quarter of 1985 the rate was 5.6 percent.

The average unemployment rate, unadjusted for the state was 3.7 percent for the second quarter of 1985. This was about 0.8 percentage points below the area rate for the similar period in 1985. In the first quarter the average rate, unadjusted, for both the state and the area was 4.6 percent. Average resident employment for the Fitchburg-Leominster MSA during the 1985 first quarter was 41,433 workers. For the second quarter employment advanced to 42,467 or a gain of 2.5 percent. In the second quarter of 1984 employment averaged 42,637 for the area.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT RISES

Average nonfarm employment edged up to 39,600 in the second quarter of 1985 from 38,630 in the similar period of 1984. This rise of more than 1,000 jobs occurred primarily in the nonmanufacturing sector which accounts for approximately two thirds of all employment in the area. Since January 1985, nonfarm jobs have expanded by 2,200 with over 85 percent of this gain in nonmanufacturing.

Nonmanufacturing sectors which recorded job increases over the 1984, 1985 second quarter period were Construction; Wholesale and Retail Trade; Services and Government. Only Transportation and Public Utilities failed to show employment gains between the two second quarter periods. Jobs continued to contract in the area's manufacturing sector, declining 400 jobs from an average level of 14,100 positions in the second quarter of 1984.

Durable Goods' manufacturing employment in the area rose slightly, while Nondurable Manufacturing fell from the earlier levels of last year's second quarter. At the same time Durable Goods Manufacturers producing machinery(exc. electrical) and Other Durable Goods (a miscellaneous category) both recorded increases in employment. In the area's nondurable sector, Rubber and Plastics reported losing 300 jobs while Other Nondurable Goods declined 200 positions from 1984 to the 1985 second quarters.

Second quarter 1985 unemployment rates for the cities and town in the Fitchburg-Leominster Metropolitan Statistical Area are shown below:

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Ashby	3.7	4.7	5.7
Ashburnham	4.5	4.3	5.3
Fitchburg	5.4	5.2	6.3
Leominster	3.7	3.5	4.3
Lunenburg	3.0	2.9	3.6
Westminster	2.2	2.1	2.6

Listed below are unemployment rates for Selected Service Delivery Areas:

Northern Worcester	3.8	3.6	4.5
Southern Worcester	3.6	3.2	3.8
Metro North	3.1	2.9	3.3
Northern Middlesex	3.4	4.0	4.3
Boston	4.3	4.0	4.6

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SELECTED PERIODS

LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	April 1985	May 1985	June 1985
LABOR FORCE	43,910	44,270	45,280
Employment	42,010	42,430	42,960
Unemployment	1,900	1,840	2,320
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	4.3	4.2	5.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..	1,321	1,226	1,337
Initial Claims	157	201	235
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,164	1,025	1,102

^{1/} By Place of Residence

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
New Applicants					
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	INA
Openings Received	

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Farm and Nonfarm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	April 1985	May 1985	June 1985
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.0	39.9	39.9
Nonmanufacturing - Total	25.4	26.1	26.2
Construction	1.6	1.8	1.8
Trans. & Public utilities	1.5	1.5	1.5
Wholesale & retail trade	9.1	9.4	9.4
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.4	1.5
Services & mining	7.1	7.3	7.3
Government	4.7	4.7	4.7

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	April 1985	May 1985	June 1985
Manufacturing - Total	13.6	13.8	13.7
Durable Goods - Total	6.1	6.3	6.3
Primary & fab. metals	x x	x x	x x
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.8	3.9	3.9
Other durable goods	2.3	2.4	2.4
Nondurable Goods - Total	7.5	7.5	7.4
Rubber & miscellaneous	3.4	3.4	3.4
Plastics products	4.1	4.1	4.0
Other nondurable goods			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS			
Average Weekly Earnings			
Average Weekly Hours	INA	INA	INA
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

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FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER MSA

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Fitchburg-Leominster SMSA

JOB MARKET RESEARCH PUBLICATION



FITCHBURG-LEOMINSTER SMSA - 4TH QUARTER 1985

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES

The unemployment rate in the Fitchburg-Leominster Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remained slightly higher than the statewide average during the fourth quarter of 1985. The local rate which was 4.0 percent in October, rose slightly to 4.1 percent in November, then rose again to 4.7 percent in December. This last was eight-tenths of a percentage point above the state's unemployment rate of 3.9 percent for that month, and was the third highest rate among the 11 major labor areas in Massachusetts. Only the Fall River and New Bedford areas had higher unemployment rates in December.

For the fourth quarter of 1985 as a whole the Fitchburg-Leominster MSA's average unemployment rate of 4.3 percent was five-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 4.8 percent average for the same quarter of 1984, and was nine-tenths of a percentage point below the 5.2 percent average for the third quarter of 1985. The average number of unemployed residents during the fourth quarter was almost 300 lower than a year earlier, but the average number of continued weeks of unemployment insurance claimed was less than 100 lower. Since only persons who were laid off from their last job would normally be eligible for unemployment insurance, the slower decline in claims apparently indicates that a larger proportion of the unemployed in 1985 were victims of layoffs.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT UP

After a drop of 400 jobs in October, nonagricultural wage and salary employment (by place of work) in the Fitchburg-Leominster MSA gained 500 jobs in November and 200 more in December, reaching a total of 39,900 in the final month of 1985. The manufacturing sector fell by 200 in October, gained back 400 in November and remained unchanged in December. Total nonmanufacturing employment rose slightly in November and December, after a fall of 200 in October. Manufacturing accounted for approximately 33.5 percent of total nonagricultural employment in the Fitchburg-Leominster area in December, considerably higher than its 22 percent share statewide.

For the entire fourth quarter total nonagricultural employment averaged 39,600, up 600 from the same

quarter one year earlier. All of the net increase was in non-manufacturing industries which rose by 1,000 to 26,300. Manufacturing industries lost 400 jobs over the year, averaging 13,300 during the last quarter of 1985.

LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	DEC. 1985	NOV. 1985	OCT. 1985
Ashby	5.2	4.6	4.6
Ashburnham	4.9	4.2	4.2
Fitchburg	5.8	5.1	5.1
Leominster	4.0	3.5	3.4
Lunenburg	3.3	2.8	2.8
Westminster	2.3	2.0	2.0
Northern Worcester SDA	4.1	3.7	3.5

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

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LABOR FORCE ^{1/} UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ^{2/}	MONTH ^{2/} AND YEAR		
	DEC. 1985	Nov. 1985	Oct. 1985
LABOR FORCE	43,600	43,150	42,400
Employment	41,560	41,390	40,690
Unemployment	2,040	1,760	1,710
Unemployment Rate ^{3/}	4.7	4.1	4.0
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ..			
Initial Claims	238	121	92
Continued Weeks Claimed	1,100	849	925

^{1/} By Place of Residence
^{3/} Not Seasonally Adjusted

^{2/} Week That Includes the 12th of the Month

AVAILABLE APPLICANT - UNFILLED JOB OPENINGS

APPLICANTS ^{1/}	TOTAL	FEMALE	VETERAN	MINORITY	DISADVANTAGED
Active Applicants	INA	INA	INA	INA	INA
New Applicants					
(This Month)					

^{1/} Available During the Month

JOB OPENINGS ^{1/}	
Unfilled Openings ^{2/}	INA
Openings Received	

^{1/} At End of Period ^{2/} Firm and Nonfirm

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT BY PLACE OF WORK

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1985	Oct. 1985
NONFARM EMPLOYMENT-TOTAL	39.9	39.7	39.2
Nonmanufacturing - Total	26.5	26.3	26.2
Construction	1.9	1.9	1.9
Trans. & Public utilities	1.6	1.5	1.4
Wholesale & retail trade	9.7	9.6	9.5
Finance, ins. & real estate	1.4	1.4	1.4
Services	7.1	7.1	7.2
Government	4.8	4.8	4.8

MAJOR INDUSTRY DIVISIONS AND GROUPS	EMPLOYMENT (000s)		
	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1985	Oct. 1985
Manufacturing - Total	13.4	13.4	13.0
Durable Goods - Total	6.2	6.2	6.1
Primary & fab. metals	x x	x x	x x
Machinery (exc. electrical)	3.8	3.8	3.8
Other durable goods	2.4	2.4	2.3
Nondurable Goods - Total	7.2	7.2	6.9
Rubber & miscellaneous	3.3	3.3	3.2
Plastics products	3.9	3.9	3.7
Other nondurable goods			

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

ITEMS	Dec. 1985	Nov. 1985	Oct. 1985
Average Weekly Earnings	INA	INA	INA
Average Weekly Hours			
Average Hourly Earnings			

NOTE: Current Month Always Preliminary R: Revised

EXPLANATION OF DATA

LABOR FORCE - The sum of the employed and unemployed living in the area (total employment plus total unemployment).

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did any work at all, in any area, for pay or profit during the week of the month including the 12th or who had a job from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, vacation, labor dispute or other reasons which do not reflect a shortage of work.

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - The count of persons, living in the area, who did no work at all, in any area, during the week of the month including the 12th, but who were looking for work or awaiting recall from layoff or beginning a new job within the next 30 days.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE - Unemployment expressed as a percent of the labor force.

NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT - The count of all nonfarm wage and salary workers who performed services for wages for any part of the pay period including the 12th of the month. This is a count of jobs in the area.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS - These are based on information for full-time and part-time production and related workers in manufacturing industries. Averages include overtime pay and premium wages. These are not wage rates but are average of gross earnings.

GEOGRAPHIC DEFINITION OF THE AREA - Ashby, Ashburnham, Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg, Westminster

Fitchburg-Leominster MSA

Massachusetts Profiles are published monthly by the DES Research and Policy Department in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration of the U. S. Department of Labor.	Massachusetts Division of Employment Security Michael S. Dukakis, Governor Evelyn F. Murphy Secretary, Economic Affairs Kristin S. Demong, Director DES Marlene Seltzer, Director of Research and Policy Dorothy R. Sullivan, Chief Supervisor	Request for information or copies should be addressed to: Research and Policy Department Massachusetts Division of Employment Security C. F. Hurley Building - Government Center Boston, MA 02114 (617) 727-6541
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